



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022



### Take your Pulse

Which of Jesus' followers do you identify with the most? Why?

### Today's Reading

Mark Chapter 15

The Romans only crucified the worst criminals, especially ones who threatened the Roman order. This horrible type of execution was carried out in public to discourage others from committing similar crimes. This is Jesus' fate after he meets with Pilate, who then hands him over to be killed; not because he has found him guilty, but rather to prevent an angry mob. So with the help of Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross, Jesus is crucified on Golgotha. While on the cross, he was taunted by the bystanders as well as those who were crucified with him. While there are no mention of the disciples nearby, there were women who stayed, among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and Joses, and Salome. They helped Joseph of Arimathea place Jesus' body in a tomb before evening when the sabbath would begin.



### Start the Thinking

While the disciples fled the scene of crucifixion, the women stayed. How does this inform you about the role of women in the early church? Why is their presence lacking in much of the history we have about the Christian Church throughout the ages?



### Conversing with God

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the faithful women who stayed by your side, even when you took your final breath from the cross. Give us the courage to stay through the difficult days and serve you even when things are at their worst. Amen.



### Be blessed

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.  
May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.  
May the God of life who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen