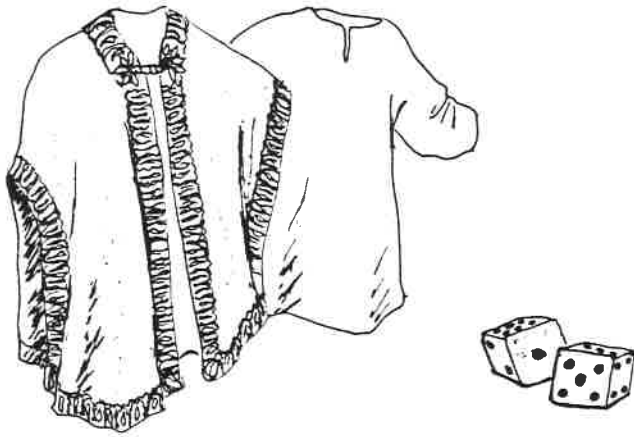


## Session 5

# The purple robe and seamless garment



## The call to unity.

*They put a purple robe on him ... Mk 15:17. "This garment was seamless, woven in one piece..... Let's not tear it they said. John 19:23-24.*

The purple robe in which Jesus was mockingly robed and his seamless garment for which the soldiers threw dice, bring us into thoughts of Glory. Priesthood and Unity. We are led to consider, "With what does the Lord clothe his people and his Church?" and, "What will be our final clothing?"

# PREPARATIONS - LENT 5

## Purple robe and seamless garment

### Day 1

**Read:** Exodus 39: 1-5 and Mark 15:17

In the garment of Jesus 'woven as one' and in the purple robe, there is a reminder of the clothes worn by Aaron and his descendants as Priests in the Old Testament, [a garment with even the belt woven as one piece..v.5]. Their job was to offer sacrifice to God for the sins of his people. Jesus becomes both Priest and sacrificed lamb on the cross. He offers himself to 'atone' for his people's sins. ie. to bring us back into 'at-one-ness' with the heavenly Father. Jesus' life work was to restore us into proper relationship with our Father in heaven.

**Ponder:** Jesus has died for me. He has offered himself for my sin. What can I offer to him this day?

**Pray:** Thank you Jesus for taking my sin upon yourself, help me now to live as one who is forgiven.

### Day 2

**Read:** John 19:23-24 and John 17:20-21

The garment that Jesus wore was seamless and it remained in one piece. The soldiers didn't want to ruin it by dividing it up. The Body of Jesus...his Church.. is not to be ruined by division. It is to be clothed with the garment of unity. Jesus prayed for his followers to be one; to remain together in love.

**Ponder:** Are there ways in which I am not in loving unity with other Christians...of any denomination?

**Pray:** Lord Jesus you prayed that we shall be one. Help me always to reach out in love to others.

### Day 3

**Read:** Galatians 3:27-29

Every baptised Christian has 'put on' Jesus Christ. We are clothed to be in union with Christ himself. What applies to Jesus applies to Christians as well. If he is Priest; so are we. We have the ministry of Jesus to reconcile all people to God. There is no distinction to be made between followers of Jesus. They may have different gifts and talents but all are one in him.

**Ponder:** Do I ever catch myself being jealous of a brother or sister in Christ?

**Pray:** Lord help me to recognise the gifts you have given me and to delight in what you have given to others.

### Day 4

**Read:** Colossians 3:12-14

Although Jesus was stripped of his outer clothes at his crucifixion, the soldiers could not strip him of his inner spiritual clothing...his compassion, kindness, humility etc. Over all of these he wore a garment of love. That is the garment which binds all our virtues together and makes us into one complete whole.

**Ponder:** Am I clothed with all of the things mentioned in these verses, so that I live in perfect unity with those around me...even my own family?

*From the wood to the weave*

**Pray:** Lord help me to put on the garments of your Grace and gifts.

### Day 5

**Read:** Luke 24:49\*

Some garments are harder to put on than others. To be clothed with Christ and with all his virtues may seem to be taking on something rather hard. However we don't have to do it in our own strength. We have the promise of Jesus that we will be clothed from on high and with the power of his Spirit.

**Ponder:** Have I asked the Holy spirit to come down upon me? Do I really want him to?

**Pray:** Cover me with your Spirit Lord and clothe me with your power.

### Day 6

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:51-57\*

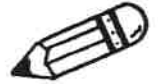
Paul describes death and resurrection in terms of "putting on" immortality and imperishability. This "putting on" is the same word as that used for putting on a garment. [The Good News version says "changed"...like a change of clothes!] Our final destiny is to be raised with Jesus and to be clothed like him with life forever. We come home to that final unity and complete reconciliation with our loving Father.

**Ponder:** Am I letting the love of Jesus clothe me even now for immortality with him? Have I heard and accepted God my Father's call to come home to him and find a covering for my sins?

**Pray:** Rock of ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

*From the wood to the weave*

Your  
Notes



# SHARING WITH OTHERS

**Focus:** Reconciliation and unity. - Session 5



## Welcome and introductions

### Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, strip from us the threadbare clothing of this world, the outward show of pride and pretense and clothe us all with your garments of righteousness, humility, and trust, so that, our outward being may always reflect that life within us which is none other than Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### Getting started

Share and discuss with the other members of your group any question, problem or observation that has come out of the daily readings for you.



### Read the Scripture passage.

Luke 15:11-24



### Questions for reflection

1. Why did the younger son leave home? What does this tell us about human beings and their relationship with God?



2. The Father let his son go with his share of the property in advance. In what ways is this a picture of God himself? Or isn't it?

Share any experience in your own life in which God let you go, as the father let the son go in this story.

3. What do you think is the significance of: a. The robe? b. The ring? c. The shoes or sandals? d. The feast?

*From the wood to the weave*

4. Which one of the following most fits where you are in your own spiritual, emotional or physical life?

*Tick only one and share why you picked it.*

- At the point of leaving.
- Wanting more of your inheritance from the father.
- Living recklessly.
- All spent.
- Starving for.....[fill in the blank]
- Coming to your senses.
- I have sinned against God and my own father.
- On your way back.
- Clothed in the best.
- Reunited with the father.

5. Look up Jn 17:10-11 and relate them to this story.

What is Jesus' vision for his Church?

What needs to be done in your own parish or fellowship to achieve it?



### Discussion highlights

Share anything important that has happened for you in this session.

### Closing prayer

(Allow time and opportunity for group prayer, finish with this set prayer if you so desire).

Heavenly Father, we have been privileged to meet in your name. Send us into your world once more united in purpose and with such love that we may bind up your broken souls, strengthen your loving ones and encourage your searching ones, for your mercy and your truth's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



### Fellowship and a Cuppa



### Something to do

Attend the worship of a Christian denomination other than your own at least three times this year.



*From the wood to the weave*