



**IS GOD FAIR?** St Isaak the Syrian answered this question long ago when he wrote, "Do not presume to call God just: for what sort of justice is this — we sinned and He gave up His only begotten Son on the Cross. Never say that God is just. If He were just, you would be in hell. Rely only on His injustice which is mercy, love, forgiveness."

Good Friday tells us that the greatest attribute of God is not justice but mercy. It is for this reason that we plead His mercy in every worship service with the prayer *Kyrie eleison*, Lord, have mercy.

### **ST. EUSEBIUS ON THE CRUCIFIXION**

"If you do not listen to Him who has created you, then ask Him who has redeemed you, how much you are worth. What is the price which Christ has paid for you? Consider His sufferings, how He was mistreated and mocked, think of the scourging, the crown of thorns, the cross. To redeem you, to purchase you. He sacrificed His life — He, God's eternal Son — He, true God like the Father.

Look at the magnificence of the moon and the stars, look at the earth in all its beauty: what is it all compared to God? Hardly more than a speck of dust. Therefore, you are worth infinitely more than heaven and earth with all their splendour. The standard of your worth is the eternal God Himself, for He has purchased you with His own blood . . . You are worth as much as The blood of our Lord Jesus."

### **IN SUMMARY**

In the ancient world it was common that people should sacrifice to God. It is something completely new that God should sacrifice Himself for us. Yet this is what happened on this great day. God sacrificed Himself for us. "It is only on a cross that a man dies with outstretched arms." said St Athanasius. His arms were out-stretched to demonstrate the unfathomable depth of His personal love for each one of us. All the world's embraces cannot compare in love with the outstretched arms of Christ on the Cross. He stands ready to embrace each one of us if we will yield our lives to Him in complete obedience and walk with Him daily.

The response we are called to make to the Crucified Christ this evening was best expressed by St. Paul when he wrote. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Make Good Friday a part of your everyday life by repeating to yourself prayerfully every morning and evening the words, "*who loved me and gave Himself for me.*"