

## Journey to Easter - Friday, March 26 (Day 38)

Philippians 2:5–11 NIV [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### Discussion

Martin Luther loved to compare our relationship with Christ to a marriage. He suggested that we picture Jesus as the bridegroom who falls in love with an unfaithful bride (us!). We know that when two people get married they share debts and assets as well as sorrows and joys.

So picture the scene of this absurd wedding: Christ takes us, a most unlovely and implausible spouse, and in the marriage of faith shares with us his love, forgiveness, and complete acceptance.

He actually gives us these gifts! And we in turn give to him our fear, resentments, and guilt. All that we give him sends him to the cross, where he dies our death. Luther called this the "happy exchange." Others have labeled it the "sweet swap." We almost lack the right words to describe this deep and wondrous and costly love that holds this couple together. Perhaps it is better to just take a knee and bow, as Paul suggests in verse 10 of our text.

### Today's Prayer

*Lord Jesus, you have taken us, the loveless ones, to be your very own. May that love create in us minds and hearts to serve you and your world. Amen.*

**Source:** Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN 2021 Lenten *Devotional* "Awesome Mystery"

## Awesome Mystery

**Image:** Number two of a series of six crosses designs chosen by Pastor Rod and made by Sandy August.

Patee is a French word meaning cross patty or footed cross. It was used by the Crusaders during Medieval times in Germany and is often found in the crowns of Christian countries such as Great Britain.

