



Jesus Paid it All

OUR ADOPTION STORY

DAY OF REFLECTION STUDY GUIDE

Good Friday, April 3, 2026

7am-7pm / White Bear Campus

 Calvary Church

Jesus Paid it All

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

—EPHESIANS 1:5

This Reflection is designed so it can be utilized in multiple settings.

IN-PERSON DAY OF REFLECTION*

The ideal experience is in-person at Calvary Church's White Bear Campus on Good Friday, April 3, 2026. Each individual reading is enhanced with visuals that bring the scenes to life.

**In-Person Day of Reflection Experience is recommended for ages 8 and up.*

ONLINE DAY OF REFLECTION, OR AT HOME THROUGHOUT HOLY WEEK

Experience this Reflection at home in one sitting or read one Reflection each day of Holy Week. This can be done individually, or as a family. There are six Reflections, so plan accordingly.

Need an abbreviated Reflection for yourself or younger participants? Just read the introduction to each Reflection, the Prayer, and the Before you Go.

WHEN USED AT HOME, THESE ITEMS WILL HELP BRING EACH REFLECTION TO LIFE:

REFLECTION ONE

You will need: Paper to draw a circle. Cut it out. Write your name on one side and "child of God" on the other.

REFLECTION TWO

You will need: A sweet treat to eat.

REFLECTION THREE

You will need: An olive, a plate to set it on, a spatula to "crush" it.

REFLECTION FOUR

You will need: Dice.

REFLECTION FIVE

You will need: Paper to write your list of sins. Red pen to write over it "Paid in FULL!". A computer/phone to listen to: "Jesus Paid It ALL" by Kristian Stanfill. (Words on page 16)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FHwdx5Blvc>

REFLECTION SIX

You will need: Bread and grape juice/wine. Paper to make an adoption certificate. A computer/phone to listen to "Who You Say I Am" by Hillsong. (Words on page 17)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKw6uqtGFfo>

Introduction

Winter lay heavy over her home, long gray days wrapped in cold. For years, God had been quietly stirring in her and her husband a call to adopt. Remembering a story about four children in a Cebu shelter, she picked up the Children's Shelter of Cebu newsletter and began scanning the pages. Then she saw them—four siblings, ages four to twelve, captured together in one photograph.

In that instant, something shifted deep within her. A quiet but unmistakable certainty settled over her heart—clear, steady, and impossible to explain: They are mine.

The desire to adopt them was intense and overwhelming. Tears fell intermittently throughout the rest of the day as love for them flooded her heart. “Would her husband and two children feel the same way?” The question consumed her. Already she sensed both the weight and the wonder of the road ahead.

The journey was costly—paperwork, home studies, major financial expenses, and months of waiting threaded with prayer. Yet at last, beds were assembled, closets cleared and bags packed.

Thanksgiving Day, 1999, along with her husband and two children, she finally met her other four children in the Philippines. Joy overwhelmed her. They were hers! It was time to go home—together.

Was it worth it? Years later, without hesitation, her answer remains the same. “Absolutely. Every bit of it!”

We also have been adopted. The cost of our adoption was staggering. God sent His Son Jesus to pay the price. He was deserted, betrayed, spit upon, slapped, whipped, and nailed to a cross. Was it worth it? He says it was. “For the joy set before him, he endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2).

Today, we invite you to reflect on your adoption—the love story of how God sought you, chose you, sent His Son to redeem you, and make you His very own.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Dutton, for the Day of Reflection team

Reflection One:

THE PROCESS BEGINS

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him much pleasure.

—EPHESIANS 1:5

The coin danced between Caesar Augustus's fingers as his mind calculated empires like others calculate grain. At last, the coin stilled in the palm of his hand. He smiled as his thumb caressed the image—his image, then he flipped it over. Without looking he knew what the inscription confirmed: Divi Filius. “son of the god.”

He reflected on his unlikely adoption by his uncle, Julius Caesar—and the Senate's decree that elevated Julius Caesar to the status of a god upon his death. In the eyes of the world, that meant that he—Caesar Augustus—was the undisputed “son of the god.”

As Augustus absentmindedly adjusted his seat—he contemplated how that title had helped him secure the very throne he was sitting on. Where would he be now had his uncle chosen another to adopt? He was Emperor—not only of Greece and Rome—but the entire world!

Glancing once again at his image on the coin, it seemed to beg the question: How vast is your kingdom now? How many more people should be taxed?

“Get me a scribe,” he bellowed to his servant. “It is time for another decree!”

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed (Luke 2:1 KJV).

FURTHER REFLECTION

The timing of this seemingly random thought was no accident. Caesar's decree was precisely woven into God's plan.

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

—Galatians 4:4-5

She [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son [God's Son]. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

—Luke 2:7

With the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the adoption process that would buy us freedom out of slavery (from the law—Galatians 4:5, from fear—Romans 8:15, from sin—Romans 6:6) and offer us a way to become part of His family, began.

Roman adoption looked different from adoption today—yet it profoundly mirrors adoption into God's family.

UNDER ROMAN LAW	AS ADOPTED CHILDREN OF GOD
The adopted individual was freely chosen and they could not be disowned. (Biological children could be).	God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. —Ephesians 1:4 “I give them [us!] eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me.” —John 10:28
The adopted individual was given a new irrevocable identity—“re-birtherd.”	Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! —2 Corinthians 5:17
The adopted individual had their debts paid for.	He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. —Colossians 2:14
The adopted individual was ransomed for a price.	For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ. — I Peter 1:18-19a
The adopted individual immediately became a rightful heir. Entitled to everything that belonged to the family.	And since we are his children, we are his heirs. —Romans 8:17a

ASK YOURSELF

ASK: Which item on the list resonates with me the most? Why?

ASK: The adoption process began with a decree from an earthly ruler, but it was authored by a heavenly King. Do I trust that God is working behind the scenes in my story right now?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You that what seemed like an emperor’s decree was really Your perfect plan unfolding. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son in humility to secure my freedom and my adoption. Help me trust Your timing and rest in the quiet truth that You are always working for my good and Your glory.

Amen.

BEFORE YOU GO

On the table are “coins.” Written on one side is “Child of God.” Write your name on the other side. You are more than Divi Filius—you are a child of the Living God. Slip it into your pocket as you move through these reflections, a quiet reminder of whose image you bear.

Reflection Two:

THE PASSION BEHIND THE PROCESS

**See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!**

—1 JOHN 3:1 (NIV)

Jesus is fully grown now. He knows His time on earth is slipping away. Yet His thoughts are not on Himself—they are on His disciples. Jesus desires to leave a tangible memory of just how much He loves them that will stay with them forever..

“Peter. John,” Thomas whispers. “Did you forget to hire a servant to wash our feet? The smell is overpowering.”

“They didn’t forget.”

Jesus’ calm yet commanding voice permeates across the room. All eyes turn to Him. Without a word, He removes His robe, ties a towel around His waist, and pours water into a basin.

Silence fills the room as He kneels, lifts their dusty, smelly feet, and begins to wash.

FURTHER REFLECTION

Foot washing was considered degrading. Imagine a respected leader or celebrity coming to your home, noticing your yard covered in dog mess, and instead of enjoying the festivities, quietly picking it up themselves. That is how low this task was regarded—times a thousand!

Sometimes, it was a servant’s job—or more often—a slave. John the Baptist said of Jesus, “I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal” (John 1:27).

It mattered deeply to Jesus that His disciples—and we—grasp how fiercely He and the Father love us. That night He said,

“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me” (John 15:9).

“For the Father himself loves you dearly” (John 16:27).

Then, praying to His Father, He revealed the depth of that love:

“I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them” (John 17:19).

“May they (us!) experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me” (John 17:23).

ASK YOURSELF

Peter struggled with allowing Jesus to wash his feet to the extent he initially refused to let Him do it. Jesus even washed Judas’ feet, knowing betrayal was coming. That is the depth of His love. And if you were there? Would you object to Jesus washing your feet? He would have washed yours too.

ASK: Do I ever resist receiving Christ’s love because I feel unworthy, ashamed, or uncomfortable? If you answered yes, spend a moment telling Him about it.

ASK: The Father loves me deeply. John 17:23 says, “as much as” He loves Jesus. If I believe that, how would that change my self-worth and security?

ASK: How am I cultivating closeness with God in my daily life, so that I feel like I am remaining in His love?

Here are a few suggestions:

Begin your day with surrender.

Instead of reaching for your phone, offer a simple prayer: “Jesus, this day is Yours. Lead me.” Starting with intentional surrender sets your heart’s direction.

Practice conversational prayer.

Talk to Jesus throughout the day—while driving, on the bus, at school, folding laundry, walking, or working. Closeness grows through ongoing conversation, not just set prayer times.

End the day with reflection.

ASK: Where did I notice Jesus today? Where did I ignore Him? Practice gratitude. Thank God for His faithfulness and rest in His grace.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

I am grateful that nothing can ever separate me from Your love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither my fears for today nor my worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate me from Your love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate me from the love that is revealed in Christ Jesus my Lord.

Amen. (Based on Romans 8:38-39)

BEFORE YOU GO

We know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love (Romans 5:5).

Choose a heart package with a butter mint treat inside. Eat it or save it. Let it serve as a reminder of God’s sweet gift of the Holy Spirit in your heart, filling it with His love.

Reflection Three:

THE PAINFUL PRICE

Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

—HEBREWS 2:14

Jesus was fully human—flesh and blood like us. As He left the Passover table and walked toward Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, He knew exactly what awaited Him. After all, He had been with the Father in Heaven when Isaiah wrote of the suffering that would soon be His:

I offered my back to those who beat me
and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.

I did not hide my face
from mockery and spitting (Isaiah 50:6).

He was despised and rejected—
a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.
He was despised, and we did not care.

But he was pierced for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.
He was whipped so we could be healed.
the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

He was oppressed and treated harshly,
yet he never said a word.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.
Unjustly condemned, he was led away.

But it was the LORD’s good plan to crush him
and cause him grief.

Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,
he will have many descendants.

—Isaiah 53 (parts)

FURTHER REFLECTION

With full knowledge of the torture that lay ahead, Jesus turned to Peter, James, and John and said:

“My soul is crushed to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

He went on a little farther and fell to the ground.

He prayed that, if possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by.

“Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

—Mark14:34-36 (parts)

Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him.

He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

—Luke 22:43-45

ASK YOURSELF

It was time for Jesus to pay the price for our adoption. He would be despised, deserted, betrayed, beaten, crushed, whipped, spit upon, unjustly condemned, and nailed to a cross. But He also knew that “when His life was made as an offering for sin, He would have many descendants” (Isaiah 53:11). We are those descendants.

Since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

—Romans 8:17

ASK: What has/is causing you sorrow?

Loss or Death: a loved one-job-dream-friendship-relationship-sense of worth-security

Issues: at home-school-job-neighborhood-church-family-marriage-global-political-inner conflict

Feelings of: guilt-shame-regret-failure-disappointment with others or oneself

Dealing with: betrayal-unmet expectations-loneliness-rejection-exclusion-being bullied-emptiness-family dynamics-watching others suffer, unrealized goals

Health problems: physical-mental-emotional-spiritual-financial-for you or someone you love

PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank You that though You knew the full weight of suffering ahead, You embraced the cross because of love—for Your Father and for me.

Today I lay before You my suffering/my friends suffering with _____. Teach me to trust that no suffering is wasted in Your hands. Remind me that You are working all things together for good for those who love You and are called according to Your purpose. When hardship presses in, help me turn to You for strength.

Amen. (Prayer based on Romans 8:28)

BEFORE YOU GO

Gethsemane means “oil press.” Gethsemane was lined with olive trees—where olives were collected then crushed under a large rolling stone until oil flowed. In that very place, Jesus said His soul was “crushed to the point of death.” Have you—or someone you love—ever felt that kind of crushing weight? Grief. Fear. Betrayal. Loss.

On your way out, crush an olive. Let it remind you: Jesus understands the pressure. He has felt the crushing. And because He endured it, you are not alone.

Reflection Four:

THE PAYMENT

**I am writing to you who are God's children,
because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.**

—1 JOHN 2:12

Breathless, John bursts through the door of the house where Mary, Jesus' mother, is staying, his words tumbling over one another.

"Jesus has been arrested! They took Him to the Sanhedrin, then to Pilate, then Herod—and now He's back before Pilate. Hurry. A crowd is gathering. This is bad."

Arrested? Just hours ago, Jesus had been reclining at the Passover table with His disciples. How could everything change so quickly?

Mary's hands tremble. The jar she is holding slips from her fingers and shatters against the floor. She doesn't notice. She doesn't stop to clean it up. She doesn't reach for her sandals. There is no time to think—only to move. She must get to her son!

With John beside her, Mary runs toward Pilate's palace—toward a scene she cannot yet fathom.

Then she hears it—the roar of the crowd.

"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Her knees buckle. Her stomach churns. They couldn't mean Jesus... could they?

Mary gasps when she sees Him—standing beside Pilate, barely recognizable. Thorns pierce His brow with a poor rendition of a crown. Blood streaks His face while bruises darken His body where He had obviously been beaten. A mock royal robe clings to His wounds, soaking up the blood.

Pilate's voice rings out, "What? Crucify your king?"

The priests shout back, "We have no king but Caesar!"

In horror, Mary watches as Pilate turns Jesus over—to be crucified!

Grief-stricken, she follows the procession to the hill outside the city, where they would crucify her son. Tears blind every step. Pain pierces her heart making it difficult to breathe.

When they came to a place called "The Skull," they nailed him to the cross.
And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.
Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."
—Luke 23:33-34a

FURTHER REFLECTION

Imagine standing where Mary stood—watching your son suffer—and hearing Him pray from the cross, "Father, forgive them."

Could you pray the same? Would mercy rise in your heart for those responsible for His agony?

And what about the Father? How could He forgive the very ones who crucified His beloved Son? Yet He did.

This was why Jesus came—to make a way for forgiveness, to take the costly step that would open the door for our adoption and bring us home as God's children.

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.
—Ephesians 1:5,7

ASK YOURSELF

It's easy to judge those who crucified Jesus. Yet: Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard (Romans 3:23). But God demonstrates his own love for us, while we were sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

ASK: Where have I sinned in this past week? (Look at the list you were given and identify the ones you struggle with either mentally or by circling them. See below for the list as well)

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins (1 John 1:9). Take a moment to confess your sins to Jesus and thank Him for forgiving you.

“I will never again remember their sin” (Hebrews 8:12).

ASK: Has someone sinned against me or someone I love?

Bring that person to Jesus. Ask Him to help you forgive, as He forgave those who crucified Him.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your forgiveness. Help me remember the cost of my sins—_____ (name it)
—and the depth of Your mercy toward me. Give me the grace to forgive others, especially _____.

Amen.

BEFORE YOU GO

The Son of God now hangs on a cross. At the foot of the cross His clothing lies in a heap—garments on which little children once sat; garments a woman touched and was healed; garments He had taken off to wash His disciples' feet; garments stained with tears from His fervent painful prayers in Gethsemane.

The soldiers who crucified Him gather around them, ravenous for the chance to claim His clothing—even as Jesus speaks words of forgiveness.

After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice (Matthew 27:35).

Pick up the dice and toss them. Listen to the noise they make. The price of your adoption was being paid for as the dice clattered together beneath the cross.

MY DEBT: LIST OF SINS

Pride, envy, jealousy, anger, bitterness, hatred, lust, greed, selfishness, fear, unforgiveness, being judgmental, ingratitude, complaining/grumbling, gossip, lying, boasting, harsh words, unkindness, idolatry, addictions—excessive drinking, gambling, drugs, pornography, inappropriate scrolling/streaming. Phone, computer, work-a-holic behavior, shopping, etc., stealing, cheating, adultery, unbelief, not loving God with all your heart, lack of concern for the salvation of others, failure to speak truth, neglecting prayer/Scripture, withholding forgiveness.

Reflection Five:

THE PURCHASE

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ.

—I PETER 1:18-19A

Less than twelve hours ago, Jesus knelt in the quiet of Gethsemane, pouring His heart out to the Father—a stark contrast to the scene unfolding at the cross where his mutilated body hangs—exposed for all the world to see. The sorrowful cries of women sobbing and the anguished groans of the crucified mix with the taunts of those passing by.

And yet:

To those who are responsible for crucifying Him—Jesus speaks of forgiveness.

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

To the criminal who first ridicules then believes—Jesus gives salvation.

“Today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).

To His mother—Jesus ensures future care.

“When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, “Dear woman, here is your son.” And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”

—John 19:26-27a

Three hours pass, then darkness fills the land. In Scripture, darkness often signals sin, judgment, and separation from God. The One who once spoke light into existence hangs wrapped in a shroud of darkness. Out of that suffocating darkness comes a cry that shatters the silence.

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46).

The answer—unapparent at the time—is this: Jesus is forsaken—for you.

God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

—2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.

When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!”

Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

—John 19:28-30

The earth shakes. Graves open. The Temple curtain is torn in two. The door has been opened for our adoption to go through.

God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children (Galatians 4:5).

It is finished.

FURTHER REFLECTION

Jesus didn't say, "I am finished." He says, "It is finished!"

In John 19:30, "It is finished" comes from the single Greek word tetelestai, from teleō, meaning "to complete", "to accomplish" or to "bring to an end." With this word, Jesus declared that His mission was fully carried out and the debt completely paid.

In legal and financial settings, the term meant a sentence had been fully served or a bill paid in full. In military language, it was a cry of victory. Because it is in the perfect tense, it signifies a finished act with lasting, permanent results.

ASK YOURSELF

To the world, "It is finished" sounded like surrender—like the final breath of a failed Messiah. Jesus was dead. Rome still ruled. Yet in the eyes of God, it was total victory. What looked like defeat was the crushing of sin, the payment in full, the turning point of eternity.

ASK: If "It is finished" (tetelestai), was a military cry of victory, how can I walk in daily victory through faith (1 John 5:4) rather than living as though the battle is still undecided?

Our culture defines victory by what can be seen—achievement, recognition, success, visibly "winning." God defines victory as faithful perseverance—keeping our eyes on Him. Depending on His strength. Trusting Him for the outcome. Standing firm in faith through joy and sorrow.

ASK: Do you feel defeated? Take heart! 1 John 5:4 says, "For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith."

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

I am eternally grateful that when Jesus declared, "It is finished," my debt was paid in full and my sentence completely served. The purchase was completed. Teach me to rest in His finished work instead of striving, and to live confidently as Your beloved child. Help me walk in His victory by faith, trusting that what He accomplished is complete and forever secure.

Amen.

BEFORE YOU GO

As you watch the PowerPoint of what Jesus went through, listen to Jesus Paid it All (words found on page 16). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FHwdx5Blvc>

Take the paper with the sins you circled and stamp it "Paid in Full." Throw it away or keep it as a reminder that the debt of your sin has been fully paid by Jesus.

Reflection Six:

THE PARTY

And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

—ROMANS 8:23

Jesus did not remain in the grave. On the third day, He rose—victorious over death. Over the next forty days, He appeared to His followers, and then from the Mount of Olives—the very place where He had once prayed in anguish—He ascended in triumph to Heaven. He reigns there, not only interceding for you but also getting ready for your arrival. Jesus, the adopted son of a carpenter, is preparing a room for you in a new home—His.

Jesus says,

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am” (John 14:1-3).

FURTHER REFLECTION

Remember the adoption story from the introduction? The full adoption was not finalized until over 13 months later—January 19th, 2001. This is the rest of the story in Cheryl Morgan’s own words:

It was interesting because I didn’t think the court date would mean much to me because they already felt totally like our children. I thought it was just a formality. But when the judge smiled and declared we were legally a family I felt very emotional and started tearing up. And then Allen (our 9-year-old) started clapping and the judge started clapping and then we were all clapping! Our judge kept smiling at us and shared that her mother had been orphaned as a child and all her siblings had been divided up and none of them were ever adopted. She told our children how lucky they were! It ended up being a beautiful and emotional day. We had pizza and made homemade ice cream and danced and watched the video of their homecoming day! It’s still one of my most precious memories.

Scripture tells us that “there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents” (Luke 15:10).

If heaven rejoices over one repentant heart, imagine the scene when you are welcomed fully into your eternal home. Unrestrained joy. Angels dancing. A great cloud of witnesses rising to their feet in applause. A feast at His table—(perhaps pizza and homemade ice cream?). Celebration without hesitation or reserve. Your Father running toward you with arms flung open wide, and Jesus—your brother and judge—grinning from ear to ear.

ASK YOURSELF

While everyone is invited, not everyone will be adopted. Remember our list of adoption rights according to Roman law? (See Reflection 1)

There is one more stipulation that Rome had: An individual could say no to the adoption.

You can say no to being adopted into God's family too. Most people do.

He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God (John 1:11-13).

ASK: Have I been adopted into God's family? If you haven't said yes to adoption yet—what are you waiting for? It can happen today. (See the prayer below). If you are already adopted—pray this prayer out of gratitude.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus—rejected, crucified, and raised again—so that I could be adopted as Your child. Today I say yes. I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord. Thank You for signing my adoption papers in His blood and for the joy that fills heaven when one child comes home.

Amen. (Prayer based on Romans 10:9)

Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir (Galatians 4:7).

ASK: There is more than enough room in God's house. Who does God want you to invite into His family? Spend a moment praying for an opportunity to share.

BEFORE YOU GO

Your adoption has been finalized—paid for with the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus promised He would not leave you as an orphan here on earth, so when you were adopted, He gave you a gift. His Spirit. The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). You now share "DNA" with Jesus!

Take out your communion packet. If you have said yes to Jesus and are part of God's family, you are invited to partake now and/or at our Good Friday service. Eat the bread and drink the juice, reflecting on the love Jesus poured out so you could be welcomed into God's family, and call Him your Father too.

Pick up and fill out your adoption certificate as a reminder God sought you, chose you, sent His Son to redeem you and made you His very own. Go with the identity and confidence of a beloved child of God.

Read/Listen closely to the lyrics of the song "Who You Say I Am" by Hillsong. (Words found on page 17)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKw6uqtGFfo>

***If you would like quiet time to reflect further, the Worship center is open for most of the day, as is the prayer room.

***If you would like prayer, please talk to one of the greeters as you leave.
We would be happy to pray with you.

JESUS PAID IT ALL

Source: LyricFind

Songwriters: Ernest J. Ford / Jack Fascinato

Jesus Paid It All lyrics © Bluewater Music Corp., BMG Rights Management

I hear the savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray
Find in me thine all in all

CHORUS

'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

CHORUS

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

CHORUS

Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow

O praise the one who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead (6x)

Jesus paid it all
And all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Source: Musixmatch Songwriters: Reuben Timothy Morgan / Benjamin David Fielding
Who You Say I Am lyrics © Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh, His love for me
Oh, His love for me
Who the Son sets free
Oh, is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am
Free at last, He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes, He died for me
Who the Son sets free
Oh, is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am
I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am
I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free
Oh, is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am\
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am

From the Author

“Excuse me!” I blurted out, cutting off my Bible study leader, Nancy Ann Yaeger. “Did you just say that in the Roman world, adoption could be more secure than being a biological child?”

Skeptical, I went straight home and opened my computer to start researching. What I discovered gave me goosebumps—and sparked this year’s Reflection. We are God’s beloved adopted children, called His own, held in His hand with a grip no force can break. Jesus gave everything—His life, His love, His very self—so this could be true. Such an amazing adoption story we have.

The Day of Reflection is a ministry born out of Power Hour that meets Wednesday evenings to pray for the church. The team has expanded to include so many others. Thanks to our creative “staging team”—Lydia Mink, Molly Sheedlo, Suzanne Singer Summer, and Carrie Stolz for making each Reflection come alive. To Marie T. Palecek who not only edited but made the text so much richer by her suggestions, and Diane Lysiak who previewed and is such an encourager.

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Last but not least, THANK YOU to Cheryl Morgan for sharing her beautiful adoption story with us.

Your sister,
Beth L. Dutton

SOURCES

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