



Good Friday

The Passion of Christ, Solemn Prayers for the World

4.15.2022

We are not here for a pretend re-enactment of an ancient story. We are here (gathered both online and in person) to consider how the story of the last week of Jesus' life, The Passion, is connected to our own story. You are invited to focus upon the elements of the Passion and how your own life reflects the struggles and opportunities manifest in the life of Jesus. The solemnity of the readings and prayers is not meant to dramatize a long ago death, rather, to resonate authentically with a part of our own story.

The image above is "Madonna Nera E Bambino (Pieta' II)" by Tylonn J. Sawyer.

Prelude: “In These Stones Horizons Sing” by Karl Jenkins

“Jesus replied, “I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Centering Prayer

Blessed be our God.

For ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom Jesus was betrayed, and given into the hands of oppressors, and suffered death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Suffering Servant Song: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

You will hear in this poem, written five hundred years before Jesus, the frame upon which the surviving followers of Jesus hung their story. While “the servant” in Isaiah’s poem is the people Israel, the followers of Jesus saw the servant as their fallen hero.

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.
Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.
Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.
Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their
iniquities.
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Musical Reflection: "He Was Despised" from Messiah by G.F. Handel

Bass Soloist: Brandon Mecklenburg

Text:

He was despised, despised and rejected of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
He gave His back to the smiters
And His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair.
He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

Middle Reading: Encounter by Langston Hughes

James Mercer Langston Hughes (1902-1967) was an American poet, social activist and novelist. He was one of the earliest innovators of the then-new literary art form called jazz poetry and he is best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance.

I met You on Your way to death,
Though quite by accident
I chose the path I did,
not knowing there You went.

When I heard the hooting mob
I started to turn back
But, curious, I stood my ground
Directly in its track
And sickened suddenly
At its sound,
Yet did not
Turn back.

So loud the mob cried,
Yet so weak,
Like a sick and muffled sea.
On Your head
You had sharp thorns.
You did not look at me—
But on Your back
You carried
My own Misery.

Musical Reflection: “Erbarme Dich”

from The Saint Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach

Alto Soloist: Laura Schleicher

Text (German):

*Erbarme dich, mein Gott, Um meiner Zahren willen;
Schaue hier, Herz und Auge Weint vor dir bitterlich.
Erbarme dich!*

English:

Have mercy, Lord on me, regard my bitter weeping,
Look at me, heart and eyes both weep to Thee bitterly.
Have mercy Lord!

The Passion, Excerpts From The Four Gospels

“Take this cup from me” — Luke 22:39-42

Then Jesus went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives; the disciples accompanied him. When they reached the place, Jesus said to them, “Pray that you not be put to the test.” Then Jesus withdrew about a stone’s throw from them, knelt down and prayed, “Abba, if it’s your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.”

“Have you come with swords?” — Matt 26:47-52

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived—accompanied by a great crowd with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas had arranged to give them a signal. “Whomever I embrace is the one,” he had said; “take hold of him.” He immediately went over to Jesus and said, “Shalom, Rabbi!” and embraced him. Jesus said to Judas, “Friend, just do what you’re here to do!” At that moment, the crowd surrounded them, laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those who accompanied Jesus drew a sword and slashed at the high priest’s attendant, cutting off an ear. Jesus said, “Put your sword back where it belongs. Those who live by the sword die by the sword.”

“Are you the Christ?” — Mark 14:60-64

The high priest stood up before the court and began to interrogate Jesus: “Have you no answer to what these people are testifying against you?” But Jesus remained silent and made no reply. Once again the high priest interrogated him: “Are you the Messiah, the Only Begotten of the Blessed One?” Jesus replied, “I am! And you will see the Chosen One seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.” At that, the high priest tore his robes and said, “What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What is your verdict?” They all said Jesus was guilty and condemned him to death.

Musical Reflection: "Alas and Did My Savior Bleed" by Isaac Watts,
music by Joshua Leavitt
Soprano: Laura Munson

Text:

Alas! And did my Savior bleed and did my sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

O the Lamb, the loving Lamb, the Lamb on Calvary;
The Lamb that was slain, that liveth again, to intercede for me.

Was it for sins that I have done, He suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

But drops of grief can never repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away, Tis all that I can do.

The Crucifixion — Luke 23:32-43

Two others were also led off with Jesus, criminals who were to be put to death. When they had reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there—together with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Abba forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.” Then they divided his garments, rolling dice for them. The people stood there watching. The rulers, however, jeered him and said, “He saved others, let him save himself—if he really is the Messiah of God, the Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him. They served Jesus sour wine and said, “If you are really the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was an inscription above Jesus that read, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who hung there beside him insulted Jesus, too, saying, “Are you really the Messiah? Then save yourself—and us!” But the other answered the first with a rebuke: “Don’t you even fear God? We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this one has done nothing wrong!” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your glory.” Jesus replied, “The truth is, today you’ll be with me in paradise!”

Hymn: Jesus, Remember Me When You Come Into Your Kingdom

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a hymn. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked with a quarter note equal to 69. The lyrics are: "Je-sus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system is identical to the first.

“Here is your mother,” “It is finished” — John 19:25-30

Standing close to Jesus’ cross were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Here is your son.” Then he said to his disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that moment, the disciple took her into his household. After this, Jesus knew that now all was completed, and to fulfill scripture perfectly, he said, “I am thirsty.” There was a jar of sour wine nearby, so they put a sponge soaked in the wine on a hyssop stick and raised it to his lips. Jesus took the wine and said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Musical Reflection: "Now My Life Is Only Weeping"

from Stabat Mater by Karl Jenkins

Contralto Soloist: Suzanne Fatta

Text:

Now my life is only weeping, like a candle melting,
Like a flute my cries are song.

Text (Aramaic):

*Barchay balchoordd hasha haina,
Sharach barmooth shooth shra,
Barmooth baroof rauvai kal.*

Homily: The Rev. Matt Lincoln

Hymn: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
*3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you
4 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh!
there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh!
there when they pierced him in the side? Oh!
there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh!

and devoutly serve you; in the name of Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For public servants and caregivers in all nations who serve and protect

For those who govern in the nations of the world

For those who are reformers and advocates of justice anywhere in the world

For all who serve the common good and work

on behalf of those who live at the margins

That with God's help they, and we, may live with goodness and integrity, and live in peace and concord.

silence

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For those who are hungry or homeless, destitute or oppressed

For those who are sick, wounded, or in need of recovery

For those in loneliness, fear, or anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, or despair

For those who are sorrowful and bereaved

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That in your mercy, O God, you will comfort and relieve them, and us,

granting all people the knowledge of your love, and stirring up in us the will and patience to minister to one another's needs.

silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer:

Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve one another for the sake of him who also suffered, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who seek God and a deeper spirituality;

For those who have never participated in a community of faith

For those who have lost their faith

For those hardened by cynicism or indifference

For those contemptuous and scornful of the desire to know God

For those who believe they are enemies of the Church, or any religion

For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open our hearts to rigorous honesty, and lead us into faith and fidelity.

silence

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you; allow your Gospel to be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist knowing your presence among us; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that we may be gathered as one people among many faiths in the presence of your love. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may enter into fullness of the joy, and receive the crown of abundant life now, and in the day of resurrection. **Amen.**

silence

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Creation, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their fullness through him in whom all things were made, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Musical Reflection: "O Savior Sweet" by J.S. Bach
Soprano Soloist: Laura Munson

Text:

O Savior sweet, O Savior kind, Thy Father's will has all Thy mind,
From Heaven Thou hast vouchsafed to come, with men, as Man,
To make Thy home.

O Savior Sweet, O Savior kind, the way to please Thee we would find,
Whatever we have it comes of Thee, O let us ever near Thee be.
O Savior Sweet, O Savior kind.

O Savior sweet, O Savior kind, who came to earth the lost to find,
Who died to save us on the tree, our hearts are filled with love to Thee.
O Savior Sweet, O Savior kind.

Thee with tender care I'll cherish, live to Thee, die to Thee;
Thus I shall not perish, but with Thee abide forever,
Joyfully, peacefully, where life endeth never.

Let us pray.

**Our Father,* who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

* In saying the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to substitute the name by which you know God best.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, on this day in which we reflect on our lives in light of your crucifixion, we ask you to remember us and all people according to the promise you made to the penitent thief who died next to you. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to all of us everlasting life with you in glory. This we ask in your holy name. **Amen.**

Linger

You are welcome to linger in prayer and meditation. The sanctuary will remain open for another twenty minutes.

Please leave in silence. Thank you.

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Worship Team

Organist: Paul Cena

Readers: Megan McElfresh, Jane Kearns

Cyber Sacristan: Jeffrey Tooke

Officiant: The Rev. Matt Lincoln

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