

THE WAY OF THE CROSS Good Friday...April 18, 2020

This service is intended to be sober, but not shocking. This service is based on our understanding of Reformed faith. We believe the truth of scripture during this final day of Jesus' life on earth is a truth we need to embrace in order to fully understand the saving grace given to us through the resurrection of our Lord. These passages and the pictures that accompany them present us with the darkest hours of human history. But, as you will hear at the close of this service, Good Friday is not the final story. A word of thanksgiving for a member, long now part of the cloud of witnesses watching over us, for painting these beautiful pictures that hang in our sanctuary during the season of Lent.

On this Good Friday when our own world is feeling a full range of emotions from despair to hope, we begin our service before we enter our sanctuary doors, embracing the presence of the Holy Spirit right here in this holy place. It is from here that we begin the call for remembrance and we pray.

A CALL FOR REMEMBRANCE AND PRAYER

We remember Jesus who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us, who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled, who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant. We remember Jesus who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him and for the perfecting of those who received him, who loved all people, and prayed for them, even if they denied and rejected him; who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God. We remember Jesus, who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross. God has exalted him who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and given us new freedom. May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us and continues to do for us. Together, we offer our hearts in prayer:

Loving God, you sent Jesus Christ to save us. We have betrayed him. We have denied him. We have abandoned, mocked, and crucified him. Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us; through Jesus Christ, our only hope. Help us by self-denial, prayer and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life. This we pray in the name of our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

I invite all to now to, with your hearts, enter this place of sanctuary, the cross and light of Christ going before us.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS AND TORCHES

PRESENTATION OF THE CROSS

May God be merciful to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us,

that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross, joy has come to the whole world.

VOLUNTARY

Melody Davis

*HYMN 228

Were You There

ANTHEM

Pie Jesu
Katie Karlen and Michele Pappas

Andrew L. Webber

Garden of Gethsemane

HYMN VERSE (“Go to Dark Gethsemane”)

Now we leave the upper room, having fed on love itself. Heading toward the field of gloom, walking, knowing, needing help. Here, we at a distance stand, learning from the Son of Man.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 14: 32-42

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.” Together we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have taken lightly the agony of your prayer in the garden. Through your Holy Spirit help us to pour ourselves out to you in prayer. Then do with us as you will.

The Betrayal

HYMN VERSE (“Go to Dark Gethsemane”)

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempters’ power; your Redeemer’s conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 14: 43-50

⁴³Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰All of them deserted him and fled. Together we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have taken lightly the sin of unfaithfulness to you and the betrayal of those who we profess to love. Through your Holy Spirit help us to stand by one another-especially in trial and trouble. Then do with us as you will.

Trial before the Jews

HYMN VERSE ("Go to Dark Gethsemane")

Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned; O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26: 57-66

⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" ⁶²The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" ⁶³But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Together we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have taken lightly the injustice of human beings, shown through your trial before the Jews. Through your Holy Spirit help us to live for justice. Then do with us as you will.

Condemnation before Pilate

HYMN VERSE (“Ah, Holy Jesus”)

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hatred pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23: 13-25

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶I will therefore have him flogged and release him.” ¹⁸Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” ¹⁹(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²²A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. Together we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have taken lightly our leaning toward expediency and convenience, shown through your condemnation before Pilate. Through your Holy Spirit, help us boldly stand for the right. Then do with us as you will.

The Via Dolorosa

HYMN VERSE (“Ah, Holy Jesus”)

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
‘Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.**

SCRIPTURE

Mark 15: 16-21

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Together we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have taken lightly the need to help others bear their burdens, as shown through Simon who was compelled to carry your cross. Through your Holy Spirit, help us to be willing to share the load of others and thus help carry your cross. Then do with us as you will.

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

HYMN VERSE (“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”)

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down; now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 15: 22-32

²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. Together we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have taken lightly the senseless pain we inflict on one another, as shown through your suffering at the hand of the Roman soldiers. Through your Holy Spirit help us to resolve to bring comfort, instead of suffering, to others. Then do with us as you will.

The Death of Jesus

HYMN VERSE (“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”)

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinner’s gain; Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! ‘Tis I deserve thy place; look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace.

SCRIPTURE

John 19: 25b-27; Mark 15: 33-39

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your

son.’ ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. ³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” Together we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have taken lightly the sacrifices others have made on our behalf, and suffering which is not ours. Through your Holy Spirit, help us to mourn with those who mourn so that your consolation may be known through our caring presence. Then do with us as you will.

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

HYMN VERSE (“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”)

**What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.**

SCRIPTURE

John 19: 31-38

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows* that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, ‘None of his bones shall be broken.’ ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, ‘They will look on the one whom they have pierced.’ ³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Together we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive us for taking lightly your love shown to all humankind through your death on the cross. Through your Holy Spirit, help us to love you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Then do with us as you will.

The Tomb

HYMN VERSE (“Jesus, Remember Me”)

Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.

SCRIPTURE

John 19: 39-42; Matthew 27: 60b

³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

ANTHEM

“Surely He Hath Borne our Grief”

Handel

Sanctuary Choir

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES /DRAPING THE CROSS

The congregation is asked to depart the building in silence, following the pastor, cross and torch bearers and extinguisher.

This is not the end of the story.

The rest will be told Easter Sunday morning.