

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 14, 2017

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John. The faithful gather not to mourn the death of Jesus but to celebrate our redemption through the faithful commitment of Jesus Christ to the cross. The Prayers offer petitions for all the world, since Christ died for all the world. The Good Friday service and with the final words of the liturgy of the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening, the last of the Triduum—the Three Days.

Congregation enters in silence.

Prayer of the Day

- ☞ Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself.
- ☛ **Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesu Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

Reading

Hebrews 10:16-25

In the death of Jesus, forgiveness of sins is worked and access to God is established. Hence, when we gather together for worship and when we love others we experience anew the benefits of Jesus' death.

☞ A reading from **Hebrews**:

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,”¹⁷ he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.¹⁹ Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh),²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Preparation

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story,
Gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

The theme for our service this Good Friday evening is "Paradoxes of the Passion." Webster's Dictionary defines a paradox as "a statement that seems contradictory or absurd, but may be true in fact." Not only can a statement serve as a paradox, so also can a situation. This evening we are going to look at a number of paradoxical situations that took place during the Passion of Christ in the hopes of gaining deeper insight and understanding and also develop a greater appreciation for all that our Savior went through and accomplished for us on that first Good Friday.

Meditation—The Paradox of Power (*time for reflection*)

Hymn

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock Within a weary land,
A home within a wilderness, A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat And burdens of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, My eyes at times can see
The very dying form of one Who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, Two wonders I confess:
The wonder of his glorious love And my unworthiness.

(The first candle is extinguished)

Meditation—The Paradox of Expediency (*time for reflection*)

Hymn

When I survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

(The second candle is extinguished)

Meditation—The Paradox of Truth (*time for reflection*)

Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.
2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.
Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

(The third candle is extinguished)

Meditation—The Paradox of Mockery (*time for reflection*)

Hymn

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

1. Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
2. Was it for sins that I had done he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

(The fourth candle is extinguished)

Meditation—The Paradox of Judgment (*time for reflection*)

Hymn

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1. I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus, to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

(The fifth candle is extinguished)

Meditation—The Paradox of Salvation (*time for reflection*)

Hymn

Change My Heart, O God (3 times through)

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

Meditation—Paradox of Confession (*time for reflection*)

Special Music

O Come and Mourn
Arranged by Hal Hopson

Grace Choir

Bidding Prayers

- A** Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.
silent prayer
- P** Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news to salvation in Christ to all people. Hear us, O God.
- C** (*sung*) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Let us pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Craig, for our pastor, for our church council, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.
silent prayer
- P** Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. Hear us, O God.
- C** (*sung*) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Let us pray for those preparing for baptism and confirmation.
silent prayer
- P** Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism and confirmation. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. Hear us, O God.
- C** (*sung*) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Let us pray for our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ.
silent prayer
- P** Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. Hear us, O God.
- C** (*sung*) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.
silent prayer
- P** Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. Hear us, O God.
- C** (*sung*) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**
- A** Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.
silent prayer

Ⓟ Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. Hear us, O God.

☞ *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

Ⓐ Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

silent prayer

Ⓟ Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. Hear us, O God.

☞ *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

Ⓐ Let us pray for God's creation.

silent prayer

Ⓟ Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. Hear us, O God.

☞ *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

Ⓐ Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

silent prayer

Ⓟ Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. Hear us, O God.

☞ *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

Ⓐ Let us pray for those in need.

silent prayer

Ⓟ Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. Hear us, O God.

☞ *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

Ⓐ Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in loud voice, or in the silence of our hearts.

silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Ⓟ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Procession of the Cross

*(The large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. During the procession, the following is sung by the pastor and echoed by the congregation **three times**..)*

P Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the savior | of the world.

C **Oh, come let us | worship him.**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 53:5

A 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. It is finished!

C **The scriptures have been fulfilled!**

P We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

During this time the members of the assembly may come forward to the large cross to make a sign of reverence, either by pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling or touching the cross. You may exit in silence when you wish.

Solo Anthem

“Were You There”

Soloist

The congregation exits in silence.