

April 10 2020 – Good Friday

Welcome to everyone for our fifth online worship service. Today we share with you the Good Friday service.

Prelude, Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5qUnKC9rPU>

Silence for reflection.

Prayer of the Day: *Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to bring all people to himself. Grant that we who are born out of his wounded side may always find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Way-Maker, who lives on with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

The Reading – Isaiah 53:2-7

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.
Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22 ... click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaJ-moIjATU>

The Holy Gospel According to John, Chapters 18 and 19 (The Message Translation).

~ meditations with hymn instructions in boxes ~

Jesus, having prayed this prayer, left with his disciples and crossed over the brook Kidron at a place where there was a garden. He and his disciples entered it.

Judas, his betrayer, knew the place because Jesus and his disciples went there often. So Judas led the way to the garden, and the Roman soldiers and police sent by the high priests and Pharisees followed. They arrived there with lanterns and torches and swords. Jesus, knowing by now everything that was coming down on him, went out and met them. He said, "Who are you after?" They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene."

He said, "That's me." The soldiers recoiled, totally taken aback. Judas, his betrayer, stood out like a sore thumb.

Jesus asked again, "Who are you after?" They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene."

"I told you," said Jesus, "that's me. I'm the one. So if it's me you're after, let these others go." (This validated the words in his prayer, "I didn't lose one of those you gave.")

Just then Simon Peter, who was carrying a sword, pulled it from its sheath and struck the Chief Priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. Malchus was the servant's name.

Jesus ordered Peter, "Put back your sword. Do you think for a minute I'm not going to drink this cup the Father gave me?"

AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO DRINK THE CUP GOD GIVES US TOO? WE FAIL TO DRINK THE CUP WHEN WE TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT ... WHEN "STUFF" IN OUR LIVES IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD... WHEN WE HAVE STRONGER AND DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER THINGS IN OUR LIVES THAN THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH GOD ... WE FAIL TO DRINK THE CUP WHEN WE PUT WEALTH, AMBITION, LOOKS AND EVEN FAMILY BEFORE GOD. WILL YOU DRINK THE CUP?

Annas interrogated Jesus regarding his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, "I've spoken openly in public. I've taught regularly in meeting places and the Temple, where the Jews all come together. Everything has been out in the open. I've said nothing in secret. So why are you treating me like a conspirator? Question those who have been listening to me. They know well what I have said. My teachings have all been aboveboard."

When he said this, one of the policemen standing there slapped Jesus across the face, saying, "How dare you speak to the Chief Priest like that!"

Jesus replied, "If I've said something wrong, prove it. But if I've spoken the plain truth, why this slapping around?"

Then Annas sent him, still tied up, to the Chief Priest Caiaphas. Meanwhile, Simon Peter was back at the fire, still trying to get warm. The others there said to him, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" He denied it, "Not me."

One of the Chief Priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again, Peter denied it. Just then a rooster crowed

JESUS WAS REPEATEDLY DENIED BY PETER. WE TOO DENY JESUS IN OUR DAILY LIVES. HOW? WHEN WE NEGLECT TO MEND BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS, WHEN WE DO NOT CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION, WHEN WE ARE NOT COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS OURSELVES ... ALL OF THESE ARE FORMS OF OUR DENIAL OF JESUS – DENIAL THAT HAPPENS EACH AND EVERY DAY ... DO YOU HEAR THE ROOSTER CROWING IN YOUR LIFE?

They led Jesus then from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. It was early morning. They themselves didn't enter the palace because they didn't want to be disqualified from eating the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and spoke. "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They said, "If he hadn't been doing something evil, do you think we'd be here bothering you?"

Pilate said, "You take him. Judge him by *your* law."

The Jews said, "We're not allowed to kill anyone." (This would confirm Jesus' word indicating how he would die.)

Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. He said, "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?"

Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?"

Pilate said, "Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?"

"My kingdom," said Jesus, "doesn't consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But I'm not that kind of king, not the world's kind of king."

Then Pilate said, "So, are you a king or not?"

Jesus answered, "You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice." Pilate said, "What is truth?"

Then he went back out to the Jews and told them, "I find nothing wrong in this man. It's your custom that I pardon one prisoner at Passover. Do you want me to pardon the 'King of the Jews'?"

They shouted back, "Not this one, but Barabbas!" Barabbas was a Bandit.

THE PEOPLE CHOSE TO RELEASE A COMMON BANDIT INSTEAD OF JESUS. WHO OR WHAT DO YOU SET FREE WITH PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE? DO YOU SET FREE LOVE, GRACE AND COMPASSION? OR DO YOU HOLD THOSE CAPTIVE, RELEASING INDIFFERENCE, JUDGMENT AND SELF-CENTREDNESS? WILL YOU RELEASE JESUS ON A COMMON BANDIT IN YOUR LIFE?

So Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers, having braided a crown from thorns, set it on his head, threw a

purple robe over him, and approached him with, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then they greeted him with slaps in the face. Pilate went back out again and said to them, “I present him to you, but I want you to know that I do not find him guilty of any crime.” Just then Jesus came out wearing the thorn crown and purple robe. Pilate announced, “Here he is: the Man.” When the high priests and police saw him, they shouted in a frenzy, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate told them, “You take him. You crucify him. I find nothing wrong with him.” The Jews answered, “We have a law, and by that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God.” When Pilate heard this, he became even more scared. He went back into the palace and said to Jesus, “Where did you come from?” Jesus gave no answer. Pilate said, “You won’t talk? Don’t you know that I have the authority to pardon you, and the authority to—crucify you?” Jesus said, “You haven’t a shred of authority over me except what has been given you from heaven. That’s why the one who betrayed me to you has committed a far greater fault.” At this, Pilate tried his best to pardon him, but the Jews shouted him down: “If you pardon this man, you’re no friend of Caesar’s. Anyone setting himself up as ‘king’ defies Caesar.” When Pilate heard those words, he led Jesus outside. He sat down at the judgment seat in the area designated Stone Court. It was the preparation day for Passover. The hour was noon. Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is your king.” They shouted back, “Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!”

THE PEOPLE CALL OUT FOR JESUS TO BE CRUCIFIED. DO OUR DAILY ACTIONS LIVE LOVE WITH EACH OTHER, WITH GOD’S CREATION AND WITH GOD? OR DO OUR DAILY ACTIONS CALL OUT FOR JESUS TO CONTINUE BEING CRUCIFIED? OVER AND OVER AGAIN? DO WE CLAIM JESUS AS OUR LEADER, FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE OF LOVE? OR DO WE CALL FOR HIS CRUCIFIXION BY MAKING LOVE A LESSER PRIORITY? ARE WE CALLING OUT “CRUCIFY HIM” TOO?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPSSciCWJ9M>

Pilate said, “I am to crucify your king?” The high priests answered, “We have no king except Caesar.” Pilate caved in to their demand. He turned him over to be crucified. They took Jesus away. Carrying his cross, Jesus went out to the place called Skull Hill, where they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a sign and had it placed on the cross. It read: Jesus the Nazarene the king of the Jews. Many of the Jews read the sign because the place where Jesus was crucified was right next to the city. It was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The Jewish high priests objected. “Don’t write, ‘The King of the Jews.’ Make it, ‘This man said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’” Pilate said, “What I’ve written, I’ve written.” When they crucified him, the Roman soldiers took his clothes and divided them up four ways, to each soldier a fourth. But his robe was seamless, a single piece of weaving, so they said to each other, “Let’s not tear it up. Let’s throw dice to see who gets it.” This confirmed the Scripture that said, “They divided up my clothes among them and threw dice for my coat.” (The soldiers validated the Scriptures!) While the soldiers were looking after themselves, Jesus’ mother, his aunt, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her. He said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother. Jesus, seeing that everything had been completed so that the Scripture record might also be complete, then said, “I’m thirsty.” A jug of sour wine was standing by. Someone put a sponge soaked with the wine on a javelin and lifted it to his mouth. After he took the wine, Jesus said, “It’s done . . . complete.” Bowing his head, he offered up his spirit. Then the Jews, since it was the day of Sabbath preparation, and so the bodies wouldn’t stay on the crosses over the Sabbath (it was a high holy day that year), petitioned Pilate that their legs be broken to speed death, and the bodies taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man crucified with Jesus, and then the other. When they got to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn’t break his legs. One of the soldiers stabbed him in the side with his spear. Blood and water gushed out. The eyewitness to these things has presented an accurate report. He saw it himself and is telling the truth so that you, also, will believe. These things that happened confirmed the Scripture, “Not a bone in his body was broken,” and the other Scripture that reads, “They will stare at the one they pierced.” After all this, Joseph of Arimathea (he was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, because he was intimidated by the Jews) petitioned Pilate to take the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. So Joseph came and took the body. Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night, came now in broad daylight carrying a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. They took Jesus’ body and, following the Jewish burial custom, wrapped it in linen with the spices. There was a garden near the place he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been placed. So, because it was Sabbath preparation for the Jews and the tomb was convenient, they placed Jesus in it.

JESUS IS DEAD. HE IS DEAD IN THE TOMB. THINK ABOUT THE PLACES IN YOUR OWN LIFE WHERE YOU HAVE NEGLECTED TO LOVE, TO SHOW COMPASSION ... PLACES WHERE YOU DID NOT SEEK JUSTICE, LIVE MERCY ... PLACES WHERE YOU NEED TO FORGIVE AND LET GO OF GRUDGES. IN ALL THOSE PLACES JESUS IS DEAD ... DEAD IN THE TOMB OF YOUR HEART.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8BHYNRIHNM>

Bidding Prayer:

Read each bid out loud.

Silence for quiet prayer follows each bid.

Then read the prayers that conclude the silence.

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide your church and gather us throughout the world ... gather your church despite the distancing and isolation requirements of this time ... gather us in Spirit. Help us to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for Michael Pryse & Susan Johnson our bishops, for Janaki Bandara our pastor, for and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides your church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety and sustain their energy for leadership in these difficult times, for the good of your church. Give our leaders the vision and insight to see, hear and lead as you want. Help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love, despite all current measures that hold us physically apart. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

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. Keep our Jewish brothers and sisters safe from harm. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office, in the health care profession, and all front-line workers in the pandemic.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom, strength, courage and protection to all those who serve in public office, in the health care profession, and all front-line workers in the pandemic time. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need, those who are ill – whether with COVID-19, or otherwise: mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

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 those who are working with the ill, 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. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

LORD'S PRAYER

***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,
forever and ever. Amen***

Sending hymn with visuals of our church windows: "How Beautiful Are the Feet of Him from Handel's Messiah featuring Julianne Binkies, soprano, Barbara Burden, alto, and Bradley Moggach, piano. The piece was recorded in 2009 for the 175th anniversary of our congregation. It was part of a CD created for the occasion entitled, Remember, Rejoice, Renew."

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rm9bAUffHK4&feature=youtu.be>

We end this service in silence, reflecting on the image of our savior who died on the cross.