



ADVENT HOUSTON

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Good Friday

April 7, 2023

GOOD FRIDAY

It is a matter of interest that the day of the Lord's death is called *Good Friday*. In terms of Jesus' own pain and suffering, it was not a good day. But in view of the death of Jesus as a day when the powers of evil were put to flight and dethroned, it was indeed a good day. Our celebration of that day in worship captures the tension of both the sorrow we bring to the day through our identification with Jesus and the joy we experience knowing that his death was the death of death, the ruination of the powers of evil.

In the early church, believers understood the events observed on Good Friday as deeply connected to the events observed on Maundy Thursday—that is, Jesus's Last Supper with his disciples (Maundy Thursday) foretold Jesus's death the following day (Good Friday). As one of the final days before the celebration of Jesus's resurrection on Easter Sunday, Good Friday is often kept as a day of fasting and preparation meant to capture the tension and folly of the cross: that beautiful, bewildering paradox that because of Christ, life is found through death.

As we join the generations of Christians who have continued to meet on Good Friday to retell Christ's passion story in creative ways, it is important for us to pay attention to the question of who is responsible for Jesus' crucifixion. The gospel story invites us to move beyond simply assigning blame to the Chief Priests, Pharisees, or even Pontius Pilate. Instead, the gospel story invites us to consider a King so powerful that even the wind and waves obey his voice, who freely gives up that power and sacrifices not only his position and authority, but also his very life. That is why this particular Friday is called "good." The focus isn't on those who would cause harm, but on the One whose love and grace lead Him to face death itself on our behalf.

REFLECTION

"Despite our earnest efforts, we couldn't climb all the way up to God. So what did God do? In an amazing act of condescension, on Good Friday, God climbed down to us, became one with us. The story of divine condescension begins on Christmas and ends on Good Friday. We thought, if there is to be business between us and God, we must somehow get up to God. Then God came down, down to the level of the cross, all the way down to the depths of hell. He how knew not sin took on our sin so that we might be free of it. God still stoops, in your life and mine, condescends. "Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" he asked his disciples, before his way up Golgotha. Our answer is an obvious, "No!" His cup is not only the cup of crucifixion and death, it is the bloody, bloody cup that one must drink if one is going to get mixed up in us. Any God who would wander into the human condition, any God who has this thirst to pursue us, had better not be too put off by pain, for that's the way we tend to treat our saviors. Any God who tries to love us had better be ready to die for it. As Chesterton writes, "Any man who preaches real love is bound to beget hate ... Real love has always ended in bloodshed."

-William H. Willimon

"If the Cross of Christ is anything to the mind, it is surely everything - the most profound reality and the sublimest mystery."

-John R.W. Stott

It is to the Cross that the Christian is challenged to follow his Master: no path of redemption can make a detour around it."

-Hans Urs von Balthasar

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Invitation

Leader: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way,
People: **And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Silence

Call to Worship

Leader: Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
People: **Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we account him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted.**
Leader: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole...
ALL: **And by his bruises we are healed.**

Opening Prayer

***Song - How Deep the Father's Love For Us**

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us" words and music by Stuart Townend
© 1995 Thankyou Music

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Ending

Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13-15; 53:1-12

- [13] Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.
- [14] As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
- [15] so shall he sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

[53:1] Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

[2] 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,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

[3] He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

[4] Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

[6] All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

[7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

[8] By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

[9] And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

[10] Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
[11] Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
[12] Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors. (ESV)

Psalm Reading

Psalm 22:1-11

[1] My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my
groaning?
[2] O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

[3] Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
[4] In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
[5] To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

[6] But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
[7] All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
[8] "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

[9] Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
[10] On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
[11] Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help. (ESV)

***Song - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" words by Isaac Watts and music by Lowell Mason

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Verse 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

Verse 2

Forbid it Lord that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood

Verse 3

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all

The Passion Reading

Words are directly from ESV Translation

John 18:1 - 19:37

Leader: This is the Passion Reading of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to the Apostle John.

Narrator: When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them,

Jesus: "Whom do you seek?"

Narrator: They answered him,

Priests &
Officials: "Jesus of Nazareth."

Narrator: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "I am he."

Narrator: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again,

Jesus: "Whom do you seek?"

Narrator: And they said,

Priests &
Officials: "Jesus of Nazareth."

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go."

Narrator: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Narrator: So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter,

Girl: "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?"

Narrator: He said,

Peter: "I am not."

Narrator: Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him,

Jesus: "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said."

Narrator: When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

Official: "Is that how you answer the high priest?"

Narrator: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?"

Narrator: Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him,

Officials: "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?"

Narrator: He denied it and said,

Peter: "I am not."

Narrator: One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

Girl: "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

Narrator: Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said,

Pilate: "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

Narrator: They answered him,

Priests: "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

Narrator: The Jews said to him,

Priests: "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."

Narrator: This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him,

Pilate: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"

Narrator: Pilate answered,

Pilate: "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?"

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

Narrator: Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: "So you are a king?"

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

Narrator: Pilate said to him,

Pilate: "What is truth?"

Narrator: After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them,

Pilate: "I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator: They cried out again,

Crowd: "Not this man, but Barabbas!"

Narrator: Now Barabbas was a robber.

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying,

Soldiers: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Narrator: and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them,

Pilate: "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him."

Narrator: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Behold the man!"

Narrator: When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,

Crowd: "Crucify him, crucify him!"

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him."

Narrator: The Jews answered him,

Crowd: “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.”

Narrator: When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus,

Pilate: “Where are you from?”

Narrator: But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him,

Pilate: “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”

Narrator: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

Narrator: From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,

Crowd: “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”

Narrator: So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,

Pilate: “Behold your King!”

Narrator: They cried out,

Crowd: “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Shall I crucify your King?”

Narrator: The chief priests answered,

Priests: “We have no king but Caesar.”

Narrator: So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

Priests: " Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

Narrator: Pilate answered,

Pilate: "What I have written I have written."

Narrator: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another,

Soldiers: "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be."

Narrator: This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother,

Jesus: "Woman, behold, your son!"

Narrator: Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus: "Behold, your mother!"

Narrator: And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture),

Jesus: "I thirst."

Narrator: A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said,

Jesus: "It is finished,"

Narrator: and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

Homily

"The Folly of the Cross"

Rev. Taylor Leachman

Song - Power of the Cross

"The Power of the Cross" words and music by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty
© 2005 Thankyou Music

Verse 1

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood

Chorus 1

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Verse 2

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow

Chorus 1

Verse 3

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry

Chorus 1

Verse 4

Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suffering I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love

Chorus 2

This the pow'r of the cross
Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross

Prayer of Intercession

Edited from the Book of Common Prayer, 2019 ACNA.

Leader: Eternal God,
 in the cross of Jesus
 we see the cost of our sin
 and the depth of your love:
 in humble hope and fear
 may we place at his feet
 all that we have and all that we are,

Silent Prayer

Leader: We pray all of this in the name of our crucified Lord.

ALL: **Amen.**

Reproaches

Edited from the Book of Common Prayer, 2019 ACNA.

Leader: Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow
which was brought upon me,
which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

ALL:
Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

Leader: O my people, O my Church,
what have I done to you,
or in what have I offended you?
Testify against me.
I led you forth from the land of Egypt,
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

ALL:
Have mercy upon us.

Leader: I led you through the desert forty years,
and fed you with manna.
I brought you through tribulation and penitence,
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you prepared a cross for your Savior.

ALL:
Have mercy upon us.

Leader: What more could I have done for you
that I have not done?
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,
I made you the branches of my vine;
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink,
and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior.

ALL:
Have mercy upon us.

Leader: I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate.
I scourged your enemies and brought you
to a land of freedom,
but you have scourged, mocked and beaten me.
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

ALL:
Have mercy upon us.

Leader: I gave you a royal scepter,
and bestowed the keys of the kingdom,
but you have given me a crown of thorns.
I raised you on high with great power,
but you have hanged me on the cross.

ALL:
Have mercy upon us.

Leader: My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,
and washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you draw the sword to strike in my name,
and seek high places in my kingdom.
I offered you my body and blood,
but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

ALL: Have mercy upon us.

Leader: I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,
and you close your hearts to the Counsellor.
I pray that all may be one in the Father and me,
but you continue to quarrel and divide.
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,
but you cast lots for my clothing.

ALL: Have mercy upon us.

Leader: I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters;
I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

**ALL: Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

***Song - Were You There**

"Were You There" African American Spiritual arr. By John Wesley Work Jr. and
Frederick J. Work

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Verse 1

Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Were you there when they crucified my Lord
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord

Verse 2

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree

Verse 3

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb

***Closing Prayer**

***The Burial Reading**

[38] After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. [39] Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. [40] So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. [41] Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. [42] So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there. (ESV)

To be continued ... come Sunday morning at 10:00 to hear
the rest of the story!

Easter Service at 10:00 A.M.

Please exit the chapel in silence.

Media Release

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