

GOOD FRIDAY ~ April 2, 2021

A Holy Week Service of Lessons and Psalms

Preparation for Worship Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

The Crucifixion: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

See, as they strip the robe from off his back
And spread his arms and nail them to the cross,
The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black,
And love is firmly fastened onto loss.
But here a pure change happens. On this tree
Loss becomes gain, death opens into birth.
Here wounding heals and fastening makes free
Earth breathes in heaven, heaven roots in earth.
And here we see the length, the breadth, the height
Where love and hatred meet and love stays true
Where sin meets grace and darkness turns to light
We see what love can bear and be and do,
And here our Saviour calls us to his side
His love is free, his arms are open wide.

by Malcolm Guite, Sounding the Seasons

Pastor's Welcome and Announcements

A cry room for small children with televised worship
is available in the Fellowship Hall during the service.

Call to Worship Isaiah 53:2b-10b

Hymn of Meditation "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (C316)

Responsive Congregational Prayer The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
People: Help us to really know you,
to bless, worship, and praise you for all your works
and for all that shines forth from them:
your almighty power, wisdom, kindness,
justice, mercy and truth.
Help us to direct all our living ~
what we think, say, and do ~
so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us
but always honored and praised.

Leader: Your kingdom come.
People: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way
that more and more we submit to you.
Keep your church strong, and add to it.
Destroy the devil's work;
destroy every force that revolts against you
and every conspiracy against your Word.
Do this until your kingdom is so complete and perfect
that in it you are all in all.

* If you are able, please stand at these times.

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Leader: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
People: Help us and all people to reject our own wills
and to obey your will without any back talk.
Your will alone is good.
Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,
as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

Leader: Give us today our daily bread.
People: Do take care of all our physical needs
so that we come to know
that you are the only source of everything good,
and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts
can do us any good without your blessing.
And so help us to give up our trust in creatures
and to put trust in you alone.

Leader: Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
People: Because of Christ's blood,
do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,
any of the sins we do
or the evil that constantly clings to us.
Forgive us, just as we are fully determined,
as evidence of your grace in us,
to forgive our neighbors.

Leader: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
People: By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment.
And our sworn enemies ~
the devil, the world, and our own flesh ~
never stop attacking us.
And so, Lord,
uphold us and make us strong
with the strength of your Holy Spirit,
so that we may not go down to defeat
in this spiritual struggle,
but may firmly resist our enemies
until we finally win the complete victory.

Leader: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
People: We have made all these requests of you
because, as our all-powerful King,
you not only want to,
but are able to give us all that is good;
and because your holy name,
and not we ourselves,
should receive all the praise, forever.
It is even more sure that you listen to our prayer,
than that we really desire what we pray for.

All: Amen.

The First Lesson Betrayal ~ John 13:12-30
He that eateth my bread lifted up his heel against me.

Psalm 41:7-10

(Tune: C306, "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed")

All those who hate me whisper ill, against me harm devise.
"Some evil holds him fast," they say, "Brought down he will not rise."

And even my familiar friend on whom my trust was real,
The one who ate my bread, has turned and lifted up his heel.

But You, O LORD, be merciful and raise me in Your grace;
And then a recompense complete upon them I will place.

The Second Lesson Rejection ~ John 15:18-27
They hated Me without a cause.

* Psalm 35:19-21
(Tune: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us")(1)

O Lord, how long will you look on? Defend me from their strife;
From these marauding lions' teeth protect my precious life.
Then where the great assembly meets to you I will give praise;
Among the crowds of worshippers in thanks my voice I'll raise.

Let him not gloat who, without cause, is my fierce enemy,
Nor those who hate me unprovoked stare spitefully at me.
They do not speak in peaceful words, but cunning schemes have planned,
Accusing those who live at peace and quiet in the land.

Triumphantly they shout and say, "His wickedness we see!"
LORD, you have seen; hold not your peace. Lord, be not far from me.

The Third Lesson Trial ~ John 18:28-19:15
Away with Him, away with Him. Crucify Him!

The Fourth Lesson Mocking ~ Matthew 27:24-34
They gave Him wine to drink mingled with gall.

Psalm 69:17-21
(Tune: C147, "How Great Thou Art")

Do not conceal your face from me your servant;
Answer me quickly, for I am distressed.
Come near and rescue me from my opponents;
Save me from those by whom I am oppressed.

You know how I am taunted and dishonored;
To you my enemies are all well known.
Because they scoff at me, my heart is broken,
And I am left defenseless and alone.

I looked for sympathy, but no one heeded;
For comforters, but I found none at all.
They gave me vinegar when I was thirsty,
And with my food they mingled bitter gall.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

The Fifth Lesson Crucifixion ~ John 19:17-24
They divided My outer garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.

Psalm 22:14-18
(Tune: C302, "Lamb of God")

Like water I am emptied out, and all my bones are torn apart;
My inmost being melts away, and into wax is turned my heart.
My strength is dried like shattered clay, and, as I fight to draw my breath,
My tongue is sticking to my jaws; You lay me in the dust of death.

A pack of dogs encloses me; their circle 'round me is complete.
I am beset by evil men and they have pierced my hands and feet.
I count the number of my bones; with gloating eyes the people stare.
They throw the dice to get my coat; among themselves my clothes they share.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood. My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

The Sixth Lesson Insults ~ Matthew 27:35-44
He trusts in God; let Him deliver Him.

