





First Presbyterian Church Marion, Illinois

Good Friday
April 10, 2020

*As we enter the sanctuary please keep the silence
so you and those around you can prepare for worship . . .*

Opening Sentences

1 Pet. 2:24

Christ Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross
so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

Blessed is the name of the Lord.

Prayer of The Day

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and to be given over to the hands of sinners,
and to suffer death on the cross;
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Contemplation #215

What Wondrous Love is This

Prayer For Illumination

Holy One, our strength in suffering and our hope for salvation,
lift up your Word of life and pour out your Spirit of grace
so that we may follow faithfully all the way to the cross;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson

Psalms 22:1-2, 14-21

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

...

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!

Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

Second Lesson

Mark 15:16-39

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They 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. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In 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. Let 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.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At 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?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And 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." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now 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!"

Sermon

When Jesus bears the sins of the world,
he bears the evils we have been unwilling to admit committing.
The Christ bears mockery and shame, insult and abandonment.
The Christ experiences the depths of human suffering.
The Savior of the world is viewed as less than human,
Whipped, spit upon, mocked, degraded, put on display as a message to the world.

When Jesus breathes his last, he exhales the life the God breathed into creation.
And as that breath leaves his body, the world testifies to the loss of his life.
Darkness comes over the land.
The curtain in the temple is torn in two.
And the centurion who guards Christ the criminal says,

“Truly this man was God’s Son.”

When Jesus says, “It is finished,” he declares that God’s love will never end. On the cross, Jesus is put on display as a message to the world. The message we take from that day is that “Truly this man was God’s Son,” and that the love of God cannot be stopped by sin and evil, by our fear, our failings, our activity, or our inactivity.

On this day, God is God in a way never seen before,
And seen every year since,
in a way that cannot be denied,
as our Creator breathes life into creation in the beginning,
our Savior breathes life into us in his end.

It is finished.
It is finished, and we are not.

To God alone be the glory. Amen.

The Solemn Intercession

Beloved people of God,
as Jesus stretched out his arms on the cross to offer life and salvation to all,
let us pray for the world that God loves so much.
Let us pray for the 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 the church and gather it throughout the world.
Help it 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 this presbytery and congregation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.
Strengthen and uphold pastors and other leaders;
keep them in health and safety for the good of the church.
Help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you continue to bless the church with new members.
Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism.

Give them new birth as your children.
Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.
Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith
and keep us united in the fellowship of love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Let us pray for people of other faiths.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace
all those who call out to you under different names.
Bring an end to interreligious strife,
and make us more faithful in our witness
to the love made known to us in your Son.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Let us pray for those who cannot believe.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you created humanity so that all might long to know you
and find peace in you.
Grant that all may recognize 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 this world in the arms of your care,
heal the damage we have done,
and bring all things to fulfillment in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Let us pray for the leaders and people of all nations.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you are the champion of the poor and the oppressed.
In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority
so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom,
and a share in the goodness of your creation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Let us pray for all who suffer or are in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you give strength to the weary

and new courage to those who have lost heart.

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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

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.

Solemn Reproaches Of The Cross

This is the cross that held the Savior of the world.

Come, let us worship God.

This is the cross that held the Savior of the world.

Come, let us worship God.

This is the cross that held the Savior of the world.

Come, let us worship God.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me!

I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way;

I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire,
but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;

I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit;

I made you branches of the vine and never left your side,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink;
I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;
I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I struck down your enemies,
but you struck my head with a reed;
I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land,
but you opened my side with a spear;
I washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on the cross;
I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink,
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, and you have made a cross for your Savior.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Hymn of Sending #218

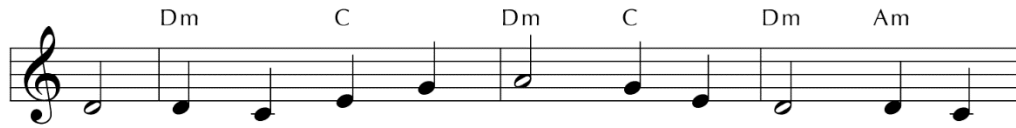
Ah, Holy Jesus

Depart in silence

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What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

218

Ah, Holy Jesus

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,

that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
 A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord
 the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a -
 thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's o - bla - tion, thy death of
 I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy

rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

This beautiful English paraphrase of a German meditation on Christ's Passion bears testimony to the unobtrusive poetic skill and musical sensitivity of a future Poet Laureate of England. The associated chorale is no less carefully crafted and rewards singing in parts.