Good Friday

April 10, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel, IL

Vicar Joe Nehring

The service begins in silence and a darkened church.

Stand

Opening Versicles

P O Lord, open my lips, praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

C make haste to help me, O Lord. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 22

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

Psalm 22; antiphon: v. 1

13 they open wide their mouths at me,* like a ravening and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;*

my heart is like wax;

it is melted with joy in my breast;

15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd,* and my tongue sticks to my jaws;*

you lay me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs compass me,* a company of evildoers encircles me;

they have pierced my hands and feet—

17 I can count all my bones—*

they stare and gloat over me;

18 they divide my garments among them,* and for my clothing they cast lots.

19 But you, O LORD, do not be far off!*

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

20 Deliver my soul from the sword,* my precious life from the power of the dog!*

21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!* You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;*

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,* and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him,* but has heard, when he cried to him.

1 They cry to you, O LORD, from the holy place.

2 You have heard, O God; answer me,

and all the ends of the earth will remember and turn their attention to the Lord.

3 They cry to you, O LORD, and you answer them from the holy place.

4 The Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

5 The Lord is good to all,

and his mercy is over all that he has made.

6 The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

7 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him;

he will also hear their cry and save them.

8 The Lord preserves all who love him,

but all the wicked he will destroy.

9 My mouth is filled with complaints because they are far from me.

My groaning is frequent because of my suffering.

10 You are far from my arrows;

your wounds are cruel on me.

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

12 Many bulls compass me;

strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
Psalm 2

Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations rage* and the peoples plot in vain?  
2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,  
3 “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”  
4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;* the Lord holds them in derision.  
5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,* and terrify them in his fury,* saying,  
6 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”  
7 I will tell of the decree:* The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be-| gotten you.  
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,* and the ends of the earth your pos-| session.  
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron* and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;* be warned, O rulers of the earth.  
11 Serve the LORD with fear,* and rejoice with trembling.  
12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.* Blessèd are all who take ref-| uge in him.

Stand

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_vwImI6he8

1 O sacred Head, now wounded,  
   With grief and shame weighed down,  
   Now scornfully surrounded  
   With thorns, Thine only crown.  
   O sacred Head, what glory,  
   What bliss, till now was Thine!  
   Yet, though despised and gory,  
   I joy to call Thee mine.

2 How pale Thou art with anguish,  
   With sore abuse and scorn!  
   How doth Thy face now languish  
   That once was bright as morn!

3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
   Was all for sinners’ gain;  
   Mine, mine was the transgression,  
   But Thine the deadly pain.  
   Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
   ’Tis I deserve Thy place;  
   Look on me with Thy favor,  
   And grant to me Thy grace.
Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. 3 They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. 4 Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” 6 When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” 7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “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.” 12 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” 13 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. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” 15 They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” 16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_vwlml6he8

4 My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine. Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine. Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love; Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.

5 What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

6 My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door; Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore! When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone, But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!

7 Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die; Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh. Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell, My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.

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So they took Jesus, 17 and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” 20 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. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” 23 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, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” 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, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” 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), “I thirst.” 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, “It is finished,” 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.”

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. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 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. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

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Grace, Mercy and Peace be to you from God our Father and Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This Good Friday evening, we consider the Second Commandment, You Shall Not Misuse the Name of the Lord Your God.

God calls us into a loving relationship with Him by telling us His name. Knowing God by name allows us to call upon Him in prayer, trusting Him in all things, in every need.

Before God created, He knew that His Creatures, His Creation would rebel against Him and need a Savior. And He still created! He created knowing that He would send Jesus to die on Good Friday for the sins of all people of all time. God knew that to atone for sins of the whole world, Jesus would bear those sins on the cross.
Jesus, God made man, pure and holy, perfect, without sin, would become sin to reconcile God to His Creation. In perfect obedience, Jesus surrendered His life for us, to give us His righteousness in exchange for our sinfulness.

God created mankind to be in relationship with Him. Even though mankind sinned, God continues to call us to be in relationship with Him. God reveals Himself through the prophets in the Old Testament, through Jesus Christ in the Gospels, and through the apostles in the New Testament, all inspired by the Holy Spirit. God continues to speak to us today through the Scriptures, the Church, the faithful witness of believers, and through faithful Pastors who proclaim the Good News of God’s salvation written in the Scriptures and who properly administer the Sacraments. God spoke all things into existence. God spoke our salvation into existence. And He continues to sustain all of creation through His word. And He continues to call us to be His own dear children, even when we turn away from Him.

God is not a God far off. He calls us to be His own dear children, a loving relationship in which we can call upon Him in every need, pray, praise and give thanks. God desires a relationship with us. In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus teaches us to call God Father. God desires that we know Him as a Father who gives good gifts to His children. Matthew 7 tells us “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him?

Yet, our sinful human nature leads us to be independent and self-reliant, to look to one’s self in times of need, instead of looking to God. And so, sometimes a prayer a last resort instead of a first recourse. We can fail to see God’s hand at work in all things in our lives, not just the good things. We can fail to trust God in all things. Too often, In our anger, we misuse God’s name, cursing and swearing instead of praying and praising. Too often, we see God’s gifts as our own possessions, not a sacred trust bestowed by God. We sometimes act as if God were far off, unaware and unconcerned about us and our situation. Too often, we turn to God in desperation, not as a child turns to a loving father.

God’s love for you is so great that God sent Jesus to take on human flesh, truly man and truly God, to willingly taking your sins to his death on the cross on that Good Friday. Despite Jesus’s agony in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before, despite Jesus’s betrayal by Judas Iscariot, despite Jesus’s denial by Peter who swore “I will never forsake you” just hours before, despite Jesus’s brutal scourging, despite Jesus’s horrific crucifixion, and even Jesus’s abandonment by God, Jesus remained faithful to the Father’s will and gave his life, for you and for me. Hear Jesus’s words from the cross in Matthew 27 “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”, praying Psalm 22:1. Imagine the agony of being separated from God. The psalmist continues “O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.” And “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 strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.” Isn’t it amazing that Jesus died for your sins? To punish your sins, God turns his back on His only begotten Son, condemning Jesus for your sins. Jesus, whose life is the epitome of prayer and praise, the proper uses of God’s name, suffers for your sins of misusing the Lord’s name, for taking God’s name in vain. For not always praying, praising and giving thanks to God in joyful response for your salvation. And that first Easter Morning, God vindicates Jesus by raising Him from the dead, giving him a name above all other names. As Paul tells the Philippians “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Tonight, as you stand before the cross, ponder Jesus’s death to atone for your sins. The Law teaches you that you are unable to fulfill the Law’s demands, to be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect. The Law teaches you that you need a savior. As you behold Jesus’s sacrifice for your sins, respond in penitent prayer. Confess your sins and pray for forgiveness. Jesus’s death alone brings you forgiveness, life and salvation. Jesus’s Good Friday sacrifice moves you to repentance, to turn away from your sins, and to pray for mercy and to praise of God who loves you so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on your behalf and to give you Jesus’s righteousness. Confident in God’s love for you, may you always turn to God with prayers, praise and thanksgiving in response to your Salvation earned on the Cross for all mankind. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep you hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

**Stand**

**Prayers**

- P Lord, have mercy.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Christ, have mercy.
- C Christ, have mercy.
- C Lord, have mercy.

**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

- P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C Amen.

- P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord’s passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C Amen.

*The congregation leaves in silence and minimal light.*

**Acknowledgments**

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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