

Good Friday

April 2, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Return to Truth

Peter addressed the people in Solomon's Portico at the temple in Jerusalem after the time of Pentecost, and said directly, "Men of Israel . . . you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life" (Acts 3:12, 14–15). In the service of Good Friday, we reflect on that truth and remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for each of us. The hymnist describes the event with poignant beauty: "The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander" (LSB 439:4). Good Friday is good for us. It is good to be here!

BELL CALLS US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:13- 53:12 (ESV)

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you-- his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind-- 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...Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 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. 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. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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. 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. 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. 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? 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. 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. 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. 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. O, Lord have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. O, Lord have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

VERSE (speak together)

HYMN

"Jesus, I will Ponder Now"

LSB #440 vs 1-3 only

John 19:1-42 (ESV)

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the nineteenth chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 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.

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB #449 vs 1

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, **24** 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,

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB #449 vs 2

25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" **27** Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. **28** After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." **29** 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. **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB # 449 vs 3

31 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. **32** So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. **34** But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. **35** 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. **36** For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." **37** And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced." **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.

O, Lord have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB #449 vs 4

SERMON

HYMN

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

#451

BIDDING PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (spoken quietly)

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS REMOVED

THE STREPITUS

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST RETURNS

HYMN

"When I Behold Jesus Christ"

#542

(We leave the church in silence)

Surveying the Wondrous Cross, On Which the Prince of Glory Died

Who is Truth?

God's call today is for us to return to Truth, Jesus Christ, for He is our life and our salvation.

WE FIRST OF ALL BRIEFLY REVIEW THE PLAN FOR _____ THAT WAS CARRIED OUT
_____ was backed into a corner.

Everything was working according to _____.

Pilate tried to _____ the accusers.

There would be no _____ the outcome.

WE MAY FRET AT GOD'S _____.

Our _____ nature wants nothing to do with it.

The _____ is not so easily silenced.

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO THE _____ OF TRUTH?

Look at the _____.

Look at this _____.

He _____ for you.

But _____?

Your heart, led by the Holy Spirit, finally relents and cries out, “ _____ .”

God's _____ must be satisfied.

May each of us hear God's call to return to Him . . . to return to the _____ .

TONIGHT'S OFFERINGS MAY BE LEFT IN THE BOX AT THE DOOR

Our worship continues on Sunday

6:30 AM ----- Easter Sunrise Service

9:00 AM ----- Easter Festival Service

Easter Breakfast served from 7:00-8:45 am

by St. Paul Youth

(Gluten-free and meatless options available)