*Meeting God in Death*

**GOOD FRIDAY April 3rd, 2015**

**Gathering** *All gather in silence. The assembly stands when the ministers stand.*

**Prayer of the Day**

*The presiding minister begins with the prayer of the day.*

L: Almighty God,

**C: look with loving mercy on your family,**

**for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, 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, forever and ever**.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIRST READING** **Isaiah 52:13—53:12** **The Prophecy of the Suffering Servant**

13 See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.

14 Just as there were many who were astonished at him-- so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals –

15 so he shall startlemany nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

**53:1** Who has believed what we have heard? 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, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by others; a man of sufferingand acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faceshe was despised, and we held him of no account.

4 Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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

8 By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

9 They made his grave with the wicked and his tombwith the rich,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 with pain.When you make his life an offering for sin,he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

11 Out of his anguish he shall see light;he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one,my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** **22**

*L: odd verses of Psalm and* ***C: even verses*** *of Psalm. All sing hymn verses.*

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.**

3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**4 In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

5 To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

**6 But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.**

7 All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

**8 "Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver -- let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"**

9 Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

**10 On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**

11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

**12 Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

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 within my breast;**

15 my mouthis dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

**16 For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;**

17 I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;

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

19 But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

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

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

**22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;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; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

**24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me,but heard when Icried to him.**

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**26 The poorshall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!**

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**

29 To him,indeed, shall all who sleep inthe earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,**

**31 andproclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done i**t.

**SECOND READING Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5:7-9**

14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been testedas we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesusoffered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

8 Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered;

9 and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

**Gospel Acclamation** *The assembly stands and speaks responsively*

L: Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross,

**C: disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Gospel** *John 18:1--19:42* **& ELW #347**  *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

*The gospel is announced.*

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*The assembly may be seated.*

1 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

3 So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4 Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"

5 They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."Jesus replied, "I am he."Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

6 When Jesussaid to them, "I am he,"they stepped back and fell to the ground.

7 Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he.So if you are looking for me, let these men go."

9 This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

11 Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

12 So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

**1** Go to dark Gethsemane,  
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see;  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

13 First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

15 Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,

16 but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in.

17 The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

18 Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

19 Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.

20 Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret.

21 Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said."

22 When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?"

23 Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not."

26 One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

28 Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters.It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters,so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover.

29 So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

30 They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

31 Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death."

32 (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

33 Then Pilate entered the headquartersagain, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

34 Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

38 Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him.

39 But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

40 They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

**John 19:1** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

2 And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.

3 They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

4 Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him."

5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

6 When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him."

7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

8 Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever.

9 He entered his headquartersagain and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

10 Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"

11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

12 From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

13 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and saton the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in HebrewGabbatha.

14 Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!"

15 They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."

16 Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus;

17 and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrewis called Golgotha.

18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

**2** Follow to the judgment hall;  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
O the worm-wood and the gall!  
O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

19 Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth,the King of the Jews."

20 Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew,in Latin, and in Greek.

21 Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, '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 clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."

27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty."

29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**3** Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb  
There' adoring at His feet,  
Mark the miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete:  
"It is finished!" Hear the cry;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.

32 Then 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 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

35 (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knowsthat he tells the truth.)

36 These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken."

37 And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

39 Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

40 They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

41 Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid.

42 And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**4** Early hasten to the tomb  
Where they laid his breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom;  
Who hath taken Him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes:  
Savior, teach us so to rise

**Sermon** *Silence for reflection follows.*

**The Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ,

God’s only Son our Lord:

Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven

He is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

**THE RECEPTION OF GIFTS FOR THE MISSION OF GOD**

**Bidding Prayer**

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,…We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

We pray for *all* bishops, for all pastors, for all who minister and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,…We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God…..We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God…..We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ nor believe in God..

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God…..We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**Deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

L: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is indeed our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

L: Come meet your God in the bread and wine of redemption. Amen.

**DISTRIBUTION** *If you believe that Jesus is your Savior, you are welcome to receive his supper.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

L: We pray together.

**C: We give you thanks. Almighty God, that you have refreshed us for the journey through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift of faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, now and forever, Amen.**

**Procession of the Cross**

*A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly.*

*The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.*

*The following dialogue is sung as the procession begins.*

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us | worship him.**

*The dialogue is sung a second time at the midpoint of the procession.*

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us | worship him.**

*The dialogue is sung a third time at the end of the procession.*

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us | worship him.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

**Closing Prayers**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you? Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom,

and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,

but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,**

**have mercy on us.**

L: We glory in your cross, O Lord,

and we praise your holy resurrection,

for by your cross joy has come into the world.

**C: May God be merciful and bless us;**

**may the light of God's face shine upon us.**

**Let your way be known upon earth,**

**your saving health among all nations.**

*After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.*

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

**Were You There? ELW #353**

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

4 Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb

*All depart in silence. If they have not done so earlier, worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.*

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We resume with our celebration of Christ’s resurrection on Sunday, April 5th

Breakfast is from 7:30 – 8:45 AM

Worship will be following at 9 AM

Come Celebrate God’s Victory of Death, Sin, and the Devil!