

# Worship in Lent

Good Friday, April 3, 2015

*Before your very eyes  
Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.  
(Galatians 3:1)*

### *A Note on the Liturgy*

*This evening's liturgy combines a reading of the Passion account from Luke's Gospel with spoken responses, chiefly from the Psalms, and times of silence.*

*The silences give us space to reflect upon the story as it unfolds.*

*And the spoken responses . . . Who is speaking? The church? Yes. The Savior? Certainly. The Spirit? Always.*

*Our response culminates in the Eucharist. We take and share the bread and the cup as a remembrance of Jesus. By that remembrance, we "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).*

§

*A percussive sound will mark the conclusion of the various times of silence.*

*The §-sign indicates a pause.*

*(The Table is prepared.)*

*(Silence follows.)*

## The Service of the Word

There was a man named Joseph,  
a member of the Council,  
a good and upright man,  
who had not consented to their decision and action.  
He came from the Judean town of Arimathea,  
and he himself was waiting for the Kingdom of God.

*Luke 23:50-54*

Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body.  
Then he took it down,  
wrapped it in linen cloth  
and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock,  
one in which no one had yet been laid.  
It was Preparation Day,  
and the Sabbath was about to begin.

**Do you work wonders for the dead?  
will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?  
Will your loving-kindness be declared in the grave?  
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?  
Will your wonders be known in the dark?  
or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?**

*Psalm 88:10-12*

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee  
followed Joseph  
and saw the tomb  
and how his body was laid in it.

*Luke 23:55-56*

Then they went home  
and prepared spices and perfumes.  
But they rested on the Sabbath  
in obedience to the commandment.

**Who was the guilty?**

*Gray Songbook 386:2*

**Who brought this upon you?**

**It is my treason, Lord, that has undone you.**

**'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you;**

**I crucified you.**

*(Silence)*

The Passover was approaching,  
and the chief priests and the teachers of the law  
were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus,  
for they were afraid of the people.

*Luke 22:1-6*

Then Satan entered Judas, one of the Twelve.  
And he went to the chief priests  
and the officers of the temple guard  
and discussed with them  
how he might betray Jesus.  
They were delighted  
and agreed to give him money.  
He consented,  
and watched for an opportunity  
to hand Jesus over to them  
when no crowd was present.

**Had it been an adversary who taunted me,  
then I could have borne it;  
or had it been an enemy who vaunted himself against me,  
then I could have hidden from him.  
But it was you, a man after my own heart,  
my companion, my own familiar friend.**

*Psalm 55:12-13*

After the Passover meal,  
Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives,  
and his disciples followed him.

*Luke 22:39-46*

On reaching the place, he said to them,  
"Pray that you will not fall into temptation."

He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them,  
knelt down and prayed,

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me;  
yet not my will, but yours be done."

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly,  
and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples,  
he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.

"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them.

"Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

**Our Father in heaven,  
lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

*Matthew 6:9,13*

§

While he was still speaking a crowd came up,  
and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve,  
was leading them.  
He approached Jesus to kiss him,  
but Jesus asked him,  
"Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

*Luke 22:47-48*

**My companion stretched forth his hand  
against his comrade;  
he has broken his covenant.  
His speech is softer than butter,  
but war is in his heart.  
His words are smoother than oil,  
but they are drawn swords.**

*Psalms 55:20-21*

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen,  
they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?"  
And one of them struck the servant of the high priest,  
cutting off his right ear.  
But Jesus answered, "No more of this!"  
And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

*Luke 22:49-54a*

Then Jesus said to the chief priests,  
the officers of the temple guard, and the elders,  
who had come for him,  
"Am I leading a rebellion,  
that you have come with swords and clubs?  
Every day I was with you in the temple courts,  
and you did not lay a hand on me.  
But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

Then seizing him, they led him away  
and took him into the house of the high priest.

**Have mercy on me, O God,  
for my enemies are hounding me;  
all day long they assault and oppress me.  
They hound me all the day long;  
truly there are many who fight against me, O Most High.**

*Psalms 56:1-2*

Peter followed at a distance.

*Luke 22:54b-62*

And when some there had kindled a fire  
in the middle of the courtyard  
and had sat down together,  
Peter sat down with them.

A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight.  
She looked closely at him and said,  
"This man was with him."

But he denied it.  
"Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said,  
"You also are one of them."  
"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted,  
"Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."  
Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!"

Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.

The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.  
Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him:  
"Before the rooster crows today,  
you will disown me three times."

And he went outside and wept bitterly.

**It was you, a man after my own heart,  
my companion, my own familiar friend.**

*Psalm 55:13*

*(Silence)*

The men who were guarding Jesus  
began mocking and beating him.  
They blindfolded him and demanded,  
“Prophecy! Who hit you?”  
And they said many other insulting things to him.

*Luke 22:63-65*

**Hear my voice, O God, when I complain;  
protect my life from fear of the enemy.  
Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked,  
from the mob of evildoers.  
They sharpen their tongue like a sword,  
and aim their bitter words like arrows,  
That they may shoot down the blameless from ambush;  
they shoot without warning and are not afraid.  
They hold fast to their evil course;  
they plan how they may hide their snares.  
They say, “Who will see us?  
who will find out our crimes?  
we have thought out a perfect plot.”**

*Psalm 64:1-6*

§

At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

*Luke 22:66-71*

"If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer.

But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He replied, "You say that I am."

Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony?"

We have heard it from his own lips."

**Will the Lord cast me off for ever?**

**will he no more show his favor?**

**Has his loving-kindness come to an end for ever?**

**has his promise failed for evermore?**

**Has God forgotten to be gracious?**

**has he, in his anger, withheld his compassion?**

*Psalms 77:7-9*

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.

And they began to accuse him, saying,

"We have found this man subverting our nation.

He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar

and claims to be Messiah, a king."

So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd,

"I find no basis for a charge against this man."

But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching.

He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean.

When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction,

he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

*Luke 23:1-12*

When Herod saw Jesus,  
he was greatly pleased,  
because for a long time he had been wanting to see him.  
From what he had heard about him,  
he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort.  
He plied him with many questions,  
but Jesus gave him no answer.  
The chief priests and the teachers of the law  
were standing there, vehemently accusing him.  
Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him.  
Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.  
That day Herod and Pilate became friends—  
before this they had been enemies.

**Why are the nations in an uproar?  
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?  
Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,  
and the princes plot together,  
against the LORD and against his Anointed?  
“Let us break their yoke,” they say;  
“let us cast off their bonds from us.”**

*Psalm 2*

§

Pilate called together the chief priests,  
the rulers and the people,  
and said to them,  
“You brought me this man  
as one who was inciting the people to rebellion.  
I have examined him in your presence  
and have found no basis for your charges against him.  
Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us;  
as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.  
Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”  
But the whole crowd shouted,  
“Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!”  
(Barabbas had been thrown into prison  
for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)  
Wanting to release Jesus,  
Pilate appealed to them again.  
But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”  
For the third time he spoke to them:  
“Why? What crime has this man committed?  
I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty.  
Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”  
But with loud shouts they insistently demanded  
that he be crucified,  
and their shouts prevailed.  
So Pilate decided to grant their demand.  
He released the man who had been thrown into prison  
for insurrection and murder,  
the one they asked for,  
and surrendered Jesus to their will.

**Whenever I am afraid,  
I will put my trust in you.  
In God, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust and will not be afraid,  
for what can flesh do to me?  
All day long they damage my cause;  
their only thought is to do me evil.  
They band together; they lie in wait;  
they spy upon my footsteps;  
because they seek my life.  
Shall they escape despite their wickedness?  
O God, in your anger, cast down the peoples.  
You have noted my lamentation;  
put my tears into your bottle;  
are they not recorded in your book?  
Whenever I call upon you, my enemies will be put to flight;  
this I know, for God is on my side.  
In God the LORD, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust and will not be afraid,  
for what can mortals do to me?**

*(Silence)*

As the soldiers led him away,  
they seized Simon from Cyrene,  
who was on his way in from the country,  
and put the cross on him  
and made him carry it behind Jesus.  
A large number of people followed him,  
including women who mourned and wailed for him.  
Jesus turned and said to them,  
“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me;  
weep for yourselves and for your children.  
For the time will come when you will say,  
‘Blessed are the childless women,  
the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’  
Then ‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”  
and to the hills, “Cover us!”’  
For if people do these things when the tree is green,  
what will happen when it is dry?”

Two other men, both criminals,  
were also led out with him to be executed.  
When they came to the place called the Skull,  
they crucified him there, along with the criminals—  
one on his right, the other on his left.  
Jesus said, “Father, forgive them,  
for they do not know what they are doing.”  
And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

**He whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
the Lord has them in derision.  
Then he speaks to them in his wrath,  
and his rage fills them with terror.  
“I myself have set my king  
upon my holy hill of Zion.”**

The people stood watching,  
and the rulers even sneered at him.  
They said, "He saved others;  
let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."  
The soldiers also came up and mocked him.  
They offered him wine vinegar and said,  
"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."  
(There was a written notice above him,  
which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.)

*Luke 23:35-38*

**You have cast off and rejected your anointed;  
you have become enraged at him.  
You have broken your covenant with your servant,  
defiled his crown, and hurled it to the ground.  
You have breached all his walls  
and laid his strongholds in ruins.  
All who pass by despoil him;  
he has become the scorn of his neighbors.  
You have exalted the right hand of his foes  
and made all his enemies rejoice.**

*Psalm 89:38-42*

One of the criminals who hung there  
hurled insults at him:  
"Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"  
But the other criminal rebuked him.  
"Don't you fear God," he said,  
"since you are under the same sentence?  
We are punished justly,  
for we are getting what our deeds deserve.  
But this man has done nothing wrong."  
Then he said, "Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom."  
Jesus answered him,  
"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

*Luke 23:39-43*

**I am always with you;  
you hold me by my right hand.  
You will guide me by your counsel,  
and afterwards receive me with glory.  
Whom have I in heaven but you?  
and having you I desire nothing upon earth.**

*Psalm 73:23-25*

*(Silence)*

It was now about noon,  
and darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon,  
for the sun stopped shining.  
And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.  
Jesus called out with a loud voice,  
"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."  
When he had said this, he breathed his last.

*Luke 23:44-46*

**LORD, why have you rejected me?  
why have you hidden your face from me?  
Ever since my youth, I have been wretched  
and at the point of death;  
I have borne your terrors with a troubled mind.  
Your blazing anger has swept over me;  
your terrors have destroyed me;  
They surround me all day long like a flood;  
they encompass me on every side.  
My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me,  
and darkness is my only companion.**

*Psalm 88:14-18*

The centurion, seeing what had happened,  
praised God and said,  
"Surely this was a righteous man."  
When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight  
saw what took place,  
they beat their breasts and went away.  
But all those who knew him,  
including the women who had followed him from Galilee,  
stood at a distance,  
watching these things.

*Luke 23:47-49*

**Lord, have mercy.  
Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

*John 1:29*

*(Silence)*

# The Service of the Table

*Luke 22:7-20*

On the day of Unleavened Bread,  
on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed,  
Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,  
"Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."  
"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.  
He replied, "As you enter the city,  
a man carrying a jar of water will meet you.  
Follow him to the house that he enters,  
and say to the owner of the house,  
'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room,  
where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'  
He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished.  
Make preparations there."  
They left and found things just as Jesus had told them.  
So they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came,  
Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.  
And he said to them,  
"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.  
For I tell you, I will not eat it again  
until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said,  
"Take this and divide it among you.  
For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine  
until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it,  
and gave it to them, saying,  
"This is my body given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me."  
In the same way, after the supper he took the cup,  
saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
which is poured out for you."

§

"The hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.

*Luke 22:21-23*

The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed.

But woe to that man who betrays him!"

They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

**It was you, a man after my own heart,  
my companion, my own familiar friend.**

*Psalms 55:13*

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.

*Luke 22:24-30*

Jesus said to them,

"The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.

But you are not to be like that.

Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves?

Is it not the one who is at the table?

But I am among you as one who serves.

You are those who have stood by me in my trials.

And I confer on you a kingdom,

just as my Father conferred one on me,

so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom

and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

*Psalms 145:13-14*

**The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and merciful in all his deeds.**

**The LORD upholds all those who fall;  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.**

§

“Simon, Simon,  
Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.  
But I have prayed for you, Simon,  
that your faith may not fail.  
And when you have turned back,  
strengthen your brothers.”  
But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you  
to prison and to death.”  
Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter,  
before the rooster crows today,  
you will deny three times that you know me.”

*Luke 22:31-34*

**It was you, a man after my own heart,  
my companion, my own familiar friend.**

*Psalms 55:13*

Then Jesus asked them,  
“When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals,  
did you lack anything?”  
“Nothing,” they answered.  
He said to them,  
“But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag;  
and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.  
It is written:  
‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’;  
and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me.  
Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”  
The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.”  
“That’s enough!” he replied.

*Luke 22:35-38*

*(Silence)*

## The Consecration

God, we thank you that,  
before his arrest and execution,  
our Lord Jesus Christ sealed the new covenant  
that would be enacted in his body and blood  
by sharing bread and wine with his disciples,  
commanding them and the whole church  
to remember him in the same way.

And so we offer you this bread and this cup.  
By your Holy Spirit, may they be for us  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
food and drink for the new life we have in him.  
By the same Spirit, may we be united with him  
in his death and resurrection.

And may we be united with one another  
and with all who eat this bread and drink this cup,  
as a living testimony to his reconciling work.

**Amen.**

## The Communion

*(With the giving of the bread, the following or similar words are said.)*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

**Amen.**

*(With the giving of the cup, the following or similar words are said.)*

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

**Amen.**

§

**May God be merciful to us and bless us,  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.**

*Psalm 67*

**Let your ways be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

**The earth has brought forth her increase;  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.  
May God give us his blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

*(All depart in silence.)*