

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29, 2024
7 PM on YouTube



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Word of God

*On this day the ministers enter in silence.
All then kneel for silent prayer.*

All stand.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be our God.

People: ***Forever and ever. Amen.***

COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 276

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. 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-- so he shall startle many 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. Who has believed what we have heard? 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, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 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. 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. 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. 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. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, 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 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. 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. 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.

PSALM 22 (*spoken by all*)

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; * by night as well, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, * enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; * they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; * they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, * scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; * they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; * let him rescue him, if he delights in him."
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, * and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, * and there is none to help.
- 12 Many young bulls encircle me; * strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- 13 They open wide their jaws at me, * like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- 16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.
- 17 They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.
- 18 Be not far away, O LORD; * you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- 19 Save me from the sword, * my life from the power of the dog.

- 20 Save me from the lion's mouth, * my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
 21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
 in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
 stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
 neither does he hide his face from them; *
 but when they cry to him he hears them.
 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
 I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
 "May your heart live for ever!"
 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
 and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; * he rules over the nations.
 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
 all who go down to the dust fall before him.
 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
 they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
 the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

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. 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 tested as we are, yet without sin. 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. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered 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. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Sequence Hymn 168

O sacred head, sore wounded

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;
 2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;
 3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,
 *4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 *5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,

1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.
 3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.
 4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?
 5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;

1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:
 3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,
 4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,
 5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.
 3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.
 4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.
 5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

After the reading of the Passion, a period of silence will be kept.

THE HOMILY: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

Solo

He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word

arr. Moses Hogan

Wasn't it a pity and a shame? And He never said a mumbalin' word.
They pierced Him in the side, and He never said a mumbalin' word.
His blood came trickling down, and He never said a mumbalin' word.
He bowed His head and died, and He never said a mumbalin' word.

THE SOLEMN COLLECTS

BCP 277-280

The people kneel, if able to do so.

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service
For all bishops and other ministers
and the people whom they serve
For Robert C. Wright, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese
For all Christians in this community
For those about to be baptized

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Joseph Biden, the President of the United States
For the Congress and the Supreme Court
For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations
For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed
For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair
For the sorrowful and bereaved
For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation
For those who have lost their faith
For those hardened by sin or indifference
For the contemptuous and the scornful
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

The cross is placed at the front of the nave.

ANTHEMS

BCP 281-282

The congregation reads the italicized portions.

Anthem 1

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.
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.
*We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.*

Anthem 2

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Anthem 3

O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O 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?
 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?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 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?

Hymn 171

Go to dark Gethsamane

PETRA

1 Go to dark Geth - se - ma - ne, ye that feel the tempt-er's power;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 your Re - deem - er's con - flict see, watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 O the worm - wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark the mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete;
 turn not from his griefs a - way, learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - fer - ing, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.
 "It is fi - nished!" hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

BCP 282

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The congregation departs in silence.



Special thanks to Christina LaFontaine for her music this evening.

The Good Friday Offering has enabled ministries that focus on health care, education, and pastoral care to meet the needs of all people in a wide variety of circumstances throughout the region. Numerically, Christians in the Middle East are not large in number. The Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East recognizes the importance of presence—of following our Lord’s model of unconditionally loving people first. Your gifts will reach across many divides—cultural, religious, political—and people’s lives will be enriched by your love and the love of God.

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