

Places of the Passion

Gethsemane

March 10, 2021

11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

PRELUDE

“There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”

setting by John Leavitt

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane (sung by soloist)

- 1 *Go to dark Gethsemane,
 All 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 from Jesus Christ to pray.*

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

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

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

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(please stand)

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us ever walk with Jesus.

People: **To see the depths of His love.**

Pastor: To behold the gift of His forgiveness.

People: **To gaze upon the heights of His grace.**

Pastor: To marvel at the magnitude of His mercy.

People: **We walk with Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane.**

Pastor: Where He is betrayed by Judas.

People: **And arrested by the Jews.**

Pastor: So that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.

People: **Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where You guide.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Paul writes in today's second lesson, "Christ came proclaiming peace to those who are far off and those who are near." (Ephesians 2:17) Heavenly Father, this proclamation has reached our ears but we confess it does not always settle into our hearts.

People: We confess that we do not always live in the light of Christ's peace.

Pastor: We prefer being peace-fakers and peace-breakers.

People: We are more ready to worry than to trust.

Pastor: More ready to fret than have faith.

People: More ready to blame than to believe.

Pastor: Forgive our hard hearts.

People: And make us more alive to the depths of Your love.

Pastor: Show us what it cost to give up Your Son.

People: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(We silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater)

Pastor: Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment, and death--for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha--for you. That is why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

People: I shall follow where You guide!

HYMN

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (sung by soloist)

1 *Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.*

4 *Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.*

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Heavenly Father, because Jesus walked into the perfect storm—betrayal, arrest, assault with a sword and then all His friends ran away—You are able to bring Your perfect peace in the storms of our lives. Empower us to believe it and receive it; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 53:1-5

¹ Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men) -- ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

715 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

- 1 *Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*

- 2 *As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*

- 3 *When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."*

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(please stand)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:47-56

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵² "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON

Places of the Passion: Gethsemane

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above.
Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray.

Heavenly Father, You haven't promised us a storm-less life. You don't offer quick fixes or shallow solutions. But You do promise perfect peace, in the midst of whatever happens. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: Grant us Your peace.

Pastor: Heavenly Father when we can't pull ourselves up, when we come to the end of our rope, and feel like quitting, You are with us and for us. Thank You for being a Father who will never forget or abandon us in our storms. Thank You for working all things together for the good of those who love You. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Grant us Your peace.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect peace—a peace perfectly suited for the moment. Our calling is not to take control, but to mine the riches of the Gospel and never lose sight of Your wonderful love. You are the Rock that is higher than us, the Rock of refuge, the Rock of ages. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: Grant us Your peace.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Anchor us in hope, strengthen us in grace, and fortify us with resolute courage.

People: Jesus let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Jesus invites us to walk with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

People: Let us ever walk with Jesus!

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

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POSTLUDE

"Prelude and Fugue in D Minor"

J. S. Bach

Serving at Chapel

Preacher: James Marriott
Liturgist: Theodore Laesch
Organist: Ryan Meyer
Singers: 11:00 a.m. Ted Laesch
6:30 p.m. Denise Koch

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