

Order of Service for April 2, 2021 Good Friday

Good Friday livestream link: <https://youtu.be/l63RAcqnOUA>

Prelude: Jan Beagley and Mary Peterson duet

Opening Hymn: “*Go To Dark Gethsemane*” – Hymn #436

Sermon: “*Alone*” – Psalm 22:1-3

We’ve spent a lot of the last year alone. The lockdowns and closings of schools and workplaces isolated us from one another. Those who were exposed to the virus were supposed to quarantine for 14 days to see if they became symptomatic or tested positive, and then isolate themselves from even those in their household if they did test positive. Those who were hospitalized with the virus suffered in isolation, as anyone who came into their room had to be covered with PPE in order to protect themselves. Many died alone, with only video calls for their loved ones to say goodbye. Others died alone as the isolation went on, as events were canceled, and it seemed like nothing would be normal again. Nursing homes were closed to outside visitors, and some residents were even restricted to their rooms to protect them from the virus.

The pandemic and the response to it aren’t the only things that have isolated us. Talking heads on TV and social media continue to separate us further from each other, unable to find common ground with those we disagree with. Pick any issue, and those on the extremes are the loudest. Sides grow further and further apart. Those divisions spill offline, separating family and friends in real life.

As we reflect on Good Friday, we see Jesus endure isolation. He is alone when he goes off to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, and his disciples cannot stay awake with him. He goes off by himself to pray, to ask if the cup may be taken from him, but follows His Father’s will anyway.

Jesus is alone because of betrayal. One of his twelve closest followers betrays him for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus knows it is coming. But it doesn’t make it any easier. He is betrayed by a kiss, a sign of closeness turned into a sign of betrayal. Despite the crowd that comes to arrest him, Jesus is alone.

Jesus is alone because his disciples run away. One tries to fight back, abandoning Jesus’ teachings to cut off the ear of one of the high priests’ servants. They scatter and flee, leaving Jesus alone at the time of his greatest need.

Jesus is alone when the naked young man runs away. One of the unique parts of Mark’s Gospel is the inclusion of a young man who runs away naked after the soldiers grab him by the robe. Tradition tells us this could be Mark himself. Even those who followed Jesus at a distance run away, abandoning him.

Jesus is alone when he is on trial. He has no friendly witnesses, only those who are lying and trying to come up with a reason he should be condemned. He has no advocate, no lawyer, no one to argue for him or represent him. Jesus is alone and silent before those judging him.

Jesus is alone before the power of the crowd. Pilate seems to be slightly sympathetic, but the crowd is against him, and against Jesus. The crowd cheering Jesus as he entered Jerusalem on a donkey a few short days ago is gone. Jesus finds no support, no sympathy in this crowd. Jesus is alone.

Jesus is alone on the cross. Yes, there are men on his right and his left. Thieves, robbers, insurrectionists, those who tried to defy the power of Rome. Yes, there are the crowds passing by and looking at the spectacle. Yet they are distant. They are mostly hostile.

Jesus is alone on the cross. He even cries out with the opening verse of Psalm 22, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Jesus is as alone as he ever was. Jesus is as alone as he could ever be.

Jesus was alone because we made him alone. Sin’s power is to separate and divide, alienate and isolate. And all of the sin of the world was on Jesus on the cross. And so Jesus was isolated and alone, separated and alienated from everyone and everything.

Jesus was alone on Good Friday so we would not have to be. Jesus endured the isolation of sin so we wouldn’t have to do so. Jesus endured the separation caused by sin so we wouldn’t have to. Because of his sacrifice on the cross, we have been brought close to God. The power of sin is ended, the power of death is defeated.

That is the very reason that Jesus was forsaken by His Father – so we would not have to be.

The wages of sin is death, but Jesus died in your place.

He was numbered with the transgressors so that you could be counted with the saints.

He was found guilty even though he was innocent so that you might be found innocent even though you are guilty.

He was stripped of His clothes so that you might be clothed in His righteousness.

He was despised and rejected so that you might be accepted into God’s holy family.

He was abandoned so that you might be adopted.

As Isaiah reminds us, He was pierced for your transgressions. He was crushed for your iniquities. His punishment brought you peace. And by His wounds you are healed.

He was stricken, smitten, and afflicted, so that you could be redeemed, restored, and acquitted.

After meditating long upon this fourth word of Jesus from the cross, Martin Luther exclaimed: “God was forsaken by God! Who can understand it?” Though we cannot begin to understand how alone Jesus felt on the cross, we can glimpse its impact.

One of the most common commands in the Bible is the command to fear not. It almost always is accompanied by the promise of God’s presence. Since we know how the story ends, we can

look ahead to Easter and beyond, where Jesus brings his followers back together. His promise to not leave them alone is fulfilled.

As vaccinations continue to be distributed and the pandemic gets closer to ending, we look forward to being able to safely be with others and know we're not alone. We look for ways to bridge the partisan divides. We look for ways to reach out to those who are isolated and alone.

We hear again today the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, beating and crucifixion. When we hear those words,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” we wonder how. But we don't wonder why. We know why Jesus did it. So you'll never have to say those words. He was forsaken so you would be forgiven. Jesus was alone on the cross so we wouldn't be. What a wonderful promise.

Antiphon: The kings of the earth stand up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His Anointed.

Psalm 2: Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.” I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, “You are my son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, with trembling kiss his feet, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Antiphon: The kings of the earth stand up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His Anointed.

----- Strangers are risen up against me, and tyrants seek after my soul.

Versicle: Christ His own self bore our sins in His body upon the tree.

Response: **That we, being dead unto sins, might live unto Righteousness, by Whose stripes we are healed.**

Lesson 1: Isaiah 53:1-6

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 comeliness 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 wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Hymn: *“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”*- **Hymn #439 vs. 1-2**

Lesson 2: Isaiah 53:7-12

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 dumb, 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 bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand; he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul 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 great, 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 made intercession for the transgressors.

Versicle: Jerusalem, Jerusalem be converted to the Lord your God.

Response: **Behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.**

Hymn: *“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”*- **Hymn #439 vs. 4-5**

Antiphon: False witnesses are risen up against Me, and such as speak wrong.

Psalm 27:1-4

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me, uttering slanders against me, my adversaries and foes, they shall stumble and fall. Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

Antiphon: False witnesses are risen up against me, and such as speak wrong.

They gather themselves against the soul of the righteous and condemn the innocent blood.

Psalm 94:16-23:

Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers? If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have dwelt in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," thy steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, thy consolations cheer my soul. Can wicked rulers be allied with thee, who frame mischief by statute? They band together against the life of the righteous, and condemn the innocent to death. But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge. He will bring back on them their iniquity and wipe them out for their wickedness; the LORD our God will wipe them out.

Antiphon: They gather themselves against the soul of the righteous and condemn the innocent blood.

Versicle: Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example; that we should follow in His steps.

Response: **He did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again, when He suffered, threatened not.**

Hymn: *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"* - Hymn #425 vs. 1

Lesson 3: John 18:1-14
When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall Him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again He asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; so, if you seek Me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word which He had spoken, "Of those whom you gave Me I lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?" So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound Him. First

they led Him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Ca'iaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Ca'iaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

Versicle: He was despised and rejected of men.

Response: **A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.**

Hymn: *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*- **Hymn #427 vs. 1**

Lesson 4: John 18:15-27

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. The maid who kept the door said to Peter, "Are not you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me, what I said to them; they know what I said." When He had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how You answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike Me?" Annas then sent Him bound to Ca'iaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "Are not you also one of His disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

Versicle: He was led as a lamb to the slaughter.

Response: And as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.

Hymn: *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*- **Hymn #450 vs. 1**

Lesson 5: John 18:28-38a

Then they led Jesus from the house of Ca'iaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed Him over." Pilate said to them, "Take Him

yourselves and judge Him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death He was to die. Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed You over to me; what have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if My kingship were of this world, My servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but My kingship is not from the world." Pilate said to Him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

Versicle: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way;

Response: **and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

Hymn: *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"* – **Hymn #450 vs. 7**

Lesson 6: John 18:38b-19:11

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them, "I find no crime in Him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on His head, and arrayed Him in a purple robe; they came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in Him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" 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 crime in Him." The Jews answered Him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He has made Himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have power to release You, and power to crucify You?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over Me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

Versicle: Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:

Response: **Yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**

Hymn: "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"- **Hymn #440 vs. 1& 5**

Lesson 7: John 19:12-22

Upon this Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 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." Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

Versicle: He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities:

Response: **The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed.**

Lesson 8: John 19:23-37

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took His garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; 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, "They parted My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, "It is finished"; and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

(It is traditional to pause for silent prayer and personal reflection after reading the

words:.."*and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.*")

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining 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. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness – his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth – that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken." And again another scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they have pierced."

Hymn: "*O Perfect Life of Love*"- **Hymn #452 vs. 1-2**

Lesson 9: Hebrews 2:9, 14-15

But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage.

Versicle: By Him there is salvation and life.

Response: **By Him we are redeemed and set at liberty.**

Lesson 10: Hebrews 4:15-16

For we have not 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.

Versicle: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous,

Response: **That He might bring us to God.**

Hymn: "*O Darkest Woe*"- **Hymn #448 vs. 1-2, 7**

Antiphon: Remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

God spared not His own Son, but freely gave Him up for us all.

Psalm 51:1-3

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Antiphon: God spared not His own Son, but freely gave Him up for us all.

Psalm 22:1-3

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but thou dost not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet thou art holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Versicle: Christ became obedient for us unto death:

Response: **Even the death of the cross.**

Hymn: “*Were You There*”- **Hymn #456 (all verses)**

The Litany:

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: O Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us. O God, the Father in heaven,

C: have mercy upon us.

P: O God, the Holy Spirit,

C: have mercy upon us.

P: Be gracious unto us.

C: Spare us, Good Lord.

P: O Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy upon us.

P: O Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

Collect for Good Friday

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

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Removal of the Christ Candle

The Strepitus

Return of the Christ Candle

The Benediction (Blessing)