

Good Friday
April 10, 2020



The Entombment of Jesus (Carl Heinrich Bloch)

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*Seen as part of the larger celebration of the mystery of salvation,
it is appropriate for Good Friday to be
an austere time of reflection and intercession,
as well as the adoration of Christ, the sacrificial Lamb.
The service, however, is not some kind of funeral service
whose emphasis is on our grief at Christ's death.
The focus is not on us but on Christ and His cross.
Nor does the note of austerity preclude the note of triumph.
Today we remember our Lord's sacrifice on the cross.*

Order of Worship

Prelude

P Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
C **Have mercy on us.**

P Far be it for me to glory
C **except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P In Him is salvation, life, and resurrection from the dead;
C **by Him we are redeemed and set at liberty.**

P May God be gracious to us and bless us;
C **and make His face shine upon us.**

P Let us pray: Almighty God, graciously behold 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.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:13-53:9

P See, My Servant will act wisely; He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at Him – His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and His form marred beyond human likeness – so will He sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of Him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

C **Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 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. 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.**

P Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. 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.

C **We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.**

P By oppression and judgment He was taken away. And who can speak of His descendants? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He was stricken. Yet who of His generation considered that He was cut off from the land of the living for the transgression of My people, to whom the blow was due?

C **He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.**

P Yet it was the LORD's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the LORD makes His life a guilt offering, He will see His offspring and prolong His days,

C **and the will of the LORD will prosper in His hand.**

P I know that my Redeemer lives,

C and that in the end He will stand upon the earth.

P And after my skin has been destroyed,

C yet in my flesh I will see God, I myself will see Him with my own eyes – I, and not another (*Job 19:25-27*).

Epistle Lesson

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

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are -- yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One Who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a son, He learned obedience from what He suffered and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

Message

Confession of Faith

I believe that Jesus Christ - true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary - is my Lord.

At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil - not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. All this He has done that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Meditation on the Crucified Christ

P On this most sacred day when our Lord, Who has been lifted up to draw all people to Himself, has gone before us to the Father, we, His body, stand with Him before the Father and intercede for His church and His world. "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.

C I will turn your religious feasts into mourning and all your singing into weeping.”

Holy Gospel (*John 18:28-19:30*)

Jesus before Pilate

Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man? “If He were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed Him over to you.” Pilate said, “Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” the Jews objected. This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death He was going to die would be fulfilled.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked Him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about Me?” “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was Your people and Your chief priests who handed You over to me. What is it You have done?” Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is from another place.” “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” “What is truth?” Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge against Him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews?’” They shouted back, “No, not Him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

The Guards Mock Jesus

Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They clothed Him in a purple robe and went up to Him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they struck Him in the face.

Jesus Is Sentenced

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against Him.” When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw Him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take Him and crucify Him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against Him.” The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. “Where do You come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. “Do You refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t You realize I have power either to free You or to crucify You?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power over Me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement. It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, “Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion

Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened it to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lots who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, “They divided My garments among them and cast lots for My clothing.” So this is what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The Death of Jesus

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put

the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

The Reproaches

(The reproaches are an ancient part of Good Friday service in which Christ cries out for the injustice that His people have failed to show mercy and to live as His chosen people).

P What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. I formed you out of dust with My own hands, but you have buried Me in filth and corruption. I breathed into you the gift of life, but you have suffocated the Source of all life.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P I rescued you in the flood, and washed away your sins, but you have drowned Me with the sins of endless ages.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P I led you forth from the land of Egypt, and delivered you by the waters of Baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross, O My people!

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna. I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you My body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, My chosen and fairest vineyard. I made you the branches of My vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave Me vinegar to drink, and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led Me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten Me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given Me gall and left Me to thirst.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom, but you have given Me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have hung Me on the cross.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of My love, but you draw the sword to strike in My Name, and seek high places in My kingdom. I offered you My body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon Me.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor, the Holy Spirit. I pray that all may be as one in the Father and Me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for My clothing.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters. I was hungry and you gave Me no food. I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink. I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick and in prison, and you did not visit Me.

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

P Christ, the Savior of the world, we praise and adore You for the redemption of the world through Your holy cross.

C Jesus, Son of the living God, draw us and all people to Yourself.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, Your Father gave You a Name which is above every name, that at the mention of Your Name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that You are Lord. While You were enthroned in glory on the cross, the penitent thief confessed his sins to You and called upon Your Name with the request that You would remember him in Paradise. We also bow before You and pray that You will remember us who call out to You this day.

C Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

P O Lord God, as Your Son said to the thief, "Today, you shall be with Me in Paradise," we pray that we may hear these words at the moment of our own death:

C "Today, you are with Me in Paradise!"

P Almighty God, mercifully grant that as we walk in the way of the cross, we may find it to be the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Jesus, remember me

C when You come into Your kingdom.

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P Jesus, remember me

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The Lord's Prayer

C 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

The Burial of Christ

John 19:38-42

Pew Bible, p. 808

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

P Christ our Savior

C has come and has borne suffering;

P that through His passion

C He might save us.

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.