

Good Friday, 7pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
March 29, 2024



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

Silent prayer

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Blessed be our God,
People For ever and ever. Amen.

p. 276 Prayer Book

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated for the readings.

The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:1-30

p. 610 Prayer Book

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 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.**

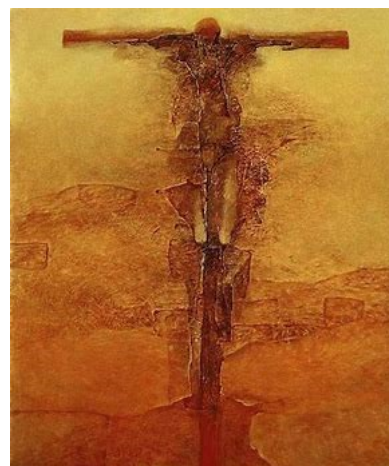
7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

**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 ravener 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.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 10:16-25

The Holy Spirit testifies saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All remain seated for the Passion story.

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John * (see translation note on back page)

All stand as able at the verse when Golgotha is named.

All are seated at the invitation of the preacher

The Sermon

The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Rector

There will be a moment of silence following the sermon for reflection.

Please remain seated

Offertory Hymn **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?** #172, The Hymnal 1982

Words: Afro-American Spiritual
Music: Were You There

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | 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? | 3 | 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? |
| 2 | 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? | 4 | 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? |

Please stand as able for

The Solemn Collects* (see note on back page)

p. 277 Prayer Book, adapted

Celebrant

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.

The people may stand or kneel for the Solemn Collects.

Leader

Let us pray for the Jewish people who possess an eternal covenant with the Lord,
who delivered them from bondage to freedom:
For continued faithfulness to God's covenant with them;
For their flourishing in peace as witnesses to God's sustaining love;
For safety from all malice and harm;
For the fullness of redemption for the sake of God's Name.
That unity and concord may exist between Israel and the Church, Jews and Gentiles,
in obedience to God's will.

Silence

Celebrant

God of Abraham, you planted your people Israel as the root and grafted us as wild branches into a single olive tree of praise to you: As we come near to the cross, we lament the history of prejudice and violence we have fomented between ourselves and your faithful people, of whom Jesus was born. Bless all the children of your covenant, Jew and Gentile alike, as we strive together to attain the fullness of your blessing for the world. **Amen.**

Leader

Let us pray for the holy catholic Church of Christ throughout the world:
For its unity in witness and service;
For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Samuel & Jennifer our bishops in the Diocese of North Carolina;
For all bishops and the people they serve;
For all Christians in this community;
For all those about to be baptized;
That God will confirm the Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Celebrant

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.**

Leader

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

Celebrant

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.**

Leader

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind:
For those who are hungry and homeless, destitute and oppressed;
For those who are ill or disabled, in body, mind, or spirit;
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish;
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair;
For those who are sorrowful and bereaved;
For those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ;
For prisoners, refugees, and captives;
For victims of war, genocide, and trafficking, and all those in mortal danger;
That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, grant them the knowledge of his love; and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Celebrant

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.

Leader

Let us pray for those who have not embraced God's redemptive love;
For those who are distant from God;
For those who have lost their faith;
For those without faith;
For those hardened by sin and indifference;
For the contemptuous and the scornful;
For those who have been wounded by the people of Christ;
For those who have persecuted others in the name of Christ;
For those who are persecutors of his disciples;
That God will lead sinners to repentance, and sustain all in a life of faith and obedience.



Silence

Celebrant

Merciful God, the source of life and fountain of mercy, let the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ be preached with grace and love; turn the hearts of the followers of Jesus who have harmed others in his name; lead all to repentance and amendment of life; and sustain by your loving grace all who lift their eyes to you. **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

Celebrant

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.**

Veneration of the Cross

Please kneel as able as a large cross is carried into the Church

The Celebrant kneels at the foot of the cross and leads the congregation

Celebrant We glory in your cross, O Lord,

**People and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross
joy has come into the world.**

Celebrant May God be merciful to us and bless us,
Show the light of his countenance, and come to us,

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

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

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



*All are invited to come to the cross for a moment of personal veneration.
More than one person may come forward at the same time.*

*To venerate the cross, you may touch the cross or kiss the cross (an ancient Christian custom),
pray silently before it, or light a votive candle.*

Organ Music at the Veneration Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle Ronald A. Nelson, composer

All stand as able

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364 Prayer Book

Celebrant Let us pray now as our Savior Christ has taught us, saying:

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.

The Concluding Collect

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 ministers and people depart in silence.

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A Note About Anti-Semitism & Holy Week Liturgies

As Christians, we live under the burden of a sad and violent history of anti-Semitism, in the sobering shadow of the Shoah (Holocaust). It is critical for us to be clear about what our sacred texts mean when they make reference to “the Jews,” especially during Holy Week, when we contemplate Jesus’ death.

When the crucifixion narratives speak of “the chief priests and leaders of the people,” they are referring to officials who collaborated closely with the Roman systems of oppression, and were viewed with contempt by much of the Jewish community in their time. They should not be identified with the Jewish people of the past as a whole, and certainly not with Jews in the present.

It may be helpful to recall the cultural context of our Christian scriptures, emerging as they did from a small, originally Jewish community of believers in Jesus as the Messiah. All of the Gospels originated from Jewish communities. Jesus himself was born, lived, and was crucified, a Jew. Any criticism of Jews from Gospel writers should be understood as the expression of differences of opinion among or about their fellow Jews.

The gospels’ use of the term “the Jews” therefore, should not be read as a criticism of the Jewish religion, and especially not as a condemnation of an entire people, either then, or now. It is one of the bitter ironies of history that our sacred texts have been used to justify the persecution of the covenant people, from whom our Savior came, and who are created, as we all are, in the precious image of God.

~ by The Rev. Mary Luti

*** A note about the Passion story & Solemn Collects read this evening:**

The version of the Passion from John’s Gospel read this evening includes translation choices offered by the Rev. Jane L. Patterson, Ph.D of Seminary of the Southwest with the intention of lessening potential anti-Jewish readings. You may request a copy of the full annotated alternate translation from our Church Office. The Solemn Collects have been adapted for similar reasons by the Rev. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Ph.D. of Seminary of the Southwest.

