

Compline Night Prayer
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 7:00pm
Tuesday in Holy Week

INTRODUCTION

As the great Three Days draw near, some communities gather each day of Holy Week for worship. Paul proclaims Christ crucified as the wisdom and power of God. Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies in order that it may bear fruit. We die with Christ in baptism that we may be raised with him to new life. We will celebrate this great mystery of death and resurrection at the Easter Vigil later this week.

GATHERING HYMN

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

Vss. 1 & 2

The musical score is written for two voices and piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DIALOGUE

P Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C **Amen.**

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C **to sing praise to your name, O Most High;**

P to herald your love in the morning,

C **your truth at the close of the day.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate One,

C **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service, and that we may not fail or deny you in the time of trial, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,

pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born,

while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow,

in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, "You are my servant,

Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain,

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my cause is with the LORD,

and my reward with my God."

⁵And now the LORD says,

who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,

and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,

and my God has become my strength—

⁶he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the LORD,

the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,

the slave of rulers,

"Kings shall see and stand up,

princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 71:1-14

From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (Ps. 71:6)

A ¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

C ²**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

A ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

C ⁴**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

A ⁵For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, my confidence since I was young.

C ⁶**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's
womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.**

A ⁷I have become a portent to many; but you are my refuge and my
strength.

C ⁸**Let my mouth be full of your praise and your glory all the day long.**

A ⁹Do not cast me off in my old age; forsake me not when my strength fails.

C ¹⁰**For my enemies are talking against me,
and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.**

A ¹¹They say, "Pursue and seize that one whom God has forsaken;
because there is none who will save."

C ¹²**O God, be not far from me; come quickly to help me, O my God.**

A ¹³May my accusers be put to shame and waste away;
let those who seek my misfortune be engulfed by scorn and reproach.

C ¹⁴**But I shall always wait in patience, and shall praise you more and more.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

To the world, the word of the cross is silly, because it claims God's power is most fully revealed in complete, utter weakness. For those who are being saved, however, the word of the cross unveils God's true wisdom, power, and source of true life.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 12:20-36

Knowing that his hour has come, Jesus announces that his death will be an exaltation. When he is lifted up in death, drawing people to new life, God's name will be glorified.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor David Hinkelman

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

Jean Pontious

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

P I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8:38-39*)

P Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

C Into your hands I commend my spirit.

P You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C Into your hands I commend my spirit.

P Glory to the Father † Son † Holy Spirit.

C Into your hands, I commend my spirit.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

P Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.

C Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

PRAYERS

P Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C listen to my cry.

P Keep me as the apple of your eye;

C hide me in the shadow of your wings.

P In righteousness I shall see you;

C when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

A Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

A Be our light in the darkness, O God, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

A Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

C Amen.

A Gracious God, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest securely, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church, called to follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Make us unflinching servants of the gospel. Deliver us from hardship as we confront the forces of injustice and practice radical compassion. Empower and sustain our bishops. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A For the earth and all its inhabitants, created in love: Train us to recognize your divine goodness in the world around us. Rouse in us a reverence for creation, that we take greater care of its resources. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A For those in positions of authority called to lead with integrity and compassion: Supply them with courage and vulnerability when challenged with new ideas. Deliver them from fear that limits imagination and impedes justice. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. We pray for the peoples of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza as well as people in so many countries whose lives are considered of no value by leaders. Welcome into your kingdom those who have been killed and protect those who are living in the valley of death, because of unconscionable wars.

Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A For those who suffer, waiting expectantly for mercy and consolation: Accompany those who feel abandoned or betrayed, defend those who are wrongly accused, and embrace those who are incarcerated or detained. Heal those who are ill. We pray aloud and silently for those in need of healing; family members, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances and those we know by name only. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- A For Christians around the world, preparing this week to journey with Jesus to the cross: Reveal to us once again the earthshaking power of humble service, unmerited forgiveness, and sacrificial love. Lead us all from death to life. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- A We remember those who have died, especial all the school children and adults in our country who have been killed in senseless acts of gun violence. We sadly commended them into your hands. Remember us when you come into your kingdom, and prepare a place for each of us with you in paradise. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- A Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Vss. 1 & 2



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.