



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MARCH 29, 2024
GOOD FRIDAY

12:15 PM Sanctuary Worship

* OPENING SENTENCE *(As you are able please stand)*

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Christ Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross
so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

Blessed is the name of the Lord.

* PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and to be given over to 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.

Amen.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, our strength in suffering
and our hope for salvation,
lift up your Word of life
and pour out your Spirit of grace
so that we may follow faithfully
all the way to the cross;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 52:13–53:12(NRSVUE)

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 affliction.
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;
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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22 (*Congregation joins in the response.*)

My God, my God, why have you a - ban - doned me?

Capo 5: (Dm⁶) (Am/C) (Bm⁷(^b5)) (Cmaj⁷) (Dm⁷) (Em) (Am)
 Gm⁶ Dm/F Em⁷(^b5) Fmaj⁷ Gm⁷ Am Dm

All who see me scoff at me; They mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:
 “He relied on the Lord; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him.”

Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
 They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots.
 But you, O Lord, be not far from me; O my help, hasten to aid me.

I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
 “You who fear the Lord, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;
 Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!”



After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, 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 back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

So the soldiers, their officer, and the authorities arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised them that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The people replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you a king?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not from here, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the people again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you, your King?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a rebel.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, the King!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to the people, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against 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 police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The people answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to 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 the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the mob cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the people "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked 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 carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the people read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests 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." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then 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. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth, so that you also may continue to believe.)

These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the mob, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to their burial custom. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

PASTOR’S REFLECTION

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

SOLO

The Crucifixion

Samuel Barber

Val Sibila, soprano

At the cry of the first bird
They began to crucify Thee, O Swan!
Never shall lament cease because of that
It was like the parting of day from night
Ah, sore was the suffering borne
By the body of Mary's Son
But sorer still to Him was the grief
Which for His sake
Came upon His mother

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSION

Beloved people of God,
as Jesus stretched out his arms on the cross
to offer life and salvation to all,
let us pray for the world that God loves so much.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.
By your Holy Spirit, guide the church
and gather it throughout the world.
Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name,
and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for this presbytery and congregation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.
Strengthen and uphold pastors and other leaders;
keep them in health and safety for the good of the church.
Help each of us to do faithfully
the work to which you have called us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you continue to bless the church with new members.
Increase the faith and understanding
of those preparing for baptism.
Give them new birth as your children.
Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.
Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith
and keep us united in the fellowship of love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for people of other faiths.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
gather into your embrace
all those who call out to you under different names.
Bring an end to interreligious strife,
and make us more faithful in our witness
to the love made known to us in your Son.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who cannot believe.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you created humanity so that all might long to know you
and find peace in you.
Grant that all may recognize signs of your love and grace
in the world and in the lives of Christians,
and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you are the creator of a magnificent universe.
Hold this world in the arms of your care,
heal the damage we have done,
and bring all things to fulfillment in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for the leaders and people of all nations.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you are the champion of the poor and the oppressed.
In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority
so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom,
and a share in the goodness of your creation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for all who suffer or are in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
you give strength to the weary
and new courage to those who have lost heart.
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen .**

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

This is the cross
that held the Savior of the world.
Come, let us worship God.

This is the cross
that held the Savior of the world.
Come, let us worship God.

This is the cross
that held the Savior of the world.
Come, let us worship God.

O my people, O my church,
what more could I have done for you?
Answer me!

I led you out of slavery into freedom,
and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

Forty years I led you through the desert,
feeding you with manna on the way;
I saved you from the time of trial
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire,
but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;
I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I planted you as my fairest vineyard,
but you brought forth bitter fruit;
I made you branches of the vine
and never left your side,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I poured out saving water from the rock,
but you gave me vinegar to drink;
I poured out my life
and gave you the new covenant in my blood,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I gave you a royal scepter,
but you gave me a crown of thorns;
I gave you the kingdom
and crowned you with eternal life,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I struck down your enemies,
but you struck my head with a reed;
I gave you my peace,
but you draw the sword in my name,
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I opened the waters
to lead you to the promised land,
but you opened my side with a spear;
I washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I lifted you up to the heights,
but you lifted me high on the cross;
I raised you from death
and prepared for you the tree of life,
but you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I grafted you into my people Israel,
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

Holy God . . .

I was hungry and you gave me no food,
thirsty and you gave me no drink,
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,
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

All depart in silence.



Please join us at The Old Stone Church on Easter Day,
March 31, 2024 The Day of Resurrection at 10 AM in the Sanctuary.
The Reverend Stephen C. Blonder Adams, preaching.