

Good Friday

Friday, April 2, 2021

Stripping of the Altar

The altar is stripped, symbolic of our Lord's humiliation before his captors after his arrest. During the stripping of the altar, Psalm 22 is sung by one of our musicians. The first verse of Psalm 22, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" is one of the seven last words Christ spoke from the Cross.

Psalm 22

- ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- ²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**
- ³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴**Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them. R**
- ⁵They 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 not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- ⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.
- ⁸**"Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him."**
- ⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on 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.**
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.
- ¹²**Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**
- ¹³They open wide their jaws at me,
like a slashing and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**
- ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.
- ¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.**
- ¹⁷I can count all my bones
while they stare at me and gloat.

- ¹⁸**They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.**
- ¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.
- ²⁰**Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.**
- ²¹Save me from the lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
- ²²**I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**
- ²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
- ²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the
LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- ²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Prayer of the Day

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

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13–53:12

- ¹³See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.
- ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so 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.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For 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.

³He 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.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But 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.

⁶All 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸By 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.

⁹They 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.

¹⁰Yet 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.

¹¹Out 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.

¹²Therefore 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.

Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross

First of the Seven Last Words of Christ

Luke 23: 32-38

“Father, Forgive Them, For They Know Not What They Do”

Reflection by Rev. Arnold Pierson

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"

³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

“Meditation” by Paul Hindemith

Second of the Seven Last Words of Christ

Luke 23: 39-43

“Today, You Shall Be With Me in Paradise”

Reflection by Kathy Haslwanter

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Taize: “Stay with Us”

**Third of the Seven Last Words
Woman, Behold Thy Son"**

John 19: 23:-27

Reflection by Wilma Stevens

²³When 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. ²⁴So 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."

²⁵And 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. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

"Stabat Mater", Mvt 1 by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

**Fourth of the Seven Last Words of Christ
"My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"**

Matthew 27: 41, 45-49

Reflection by Dennis Waugh

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Taize: "When the Night Becomes Dark"

**Fifth of the Seven Last Words of Christ
"I Thirst"**

John 19: 28-29

Reflection by Arlene Calderone

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A 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.

“Ecce Lignum Crucis”

**Sixth of the Seventh Last Words of Christ
“It is Finished”**

John 19:30

Reflection by Joseph Calderone

³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

“Were You There” by H.T. Burleigh

**Seventh of the Last Words of Christ
“Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit”**

Luke 23: 46-54

Reflection by Bob Chandler

⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.”^[a] ⁴⁸ And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

The Burial of Jesus

⁵⁰ Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, ⁵¹ had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning.^[b]

ELW 351 “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

The Bidding Prayer

A: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for Bishop Eaton and Bishop Curry, for our pastors and other ministers, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

A: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

A: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. 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.

C: **Amen**

A: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

A: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

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

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the 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.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

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

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. 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.

C: Amen

A: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Adoration of the Cross

Our musicians will sing the following exclamation three times as the Cross is processed to the altar.

Behold, the life giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

ELW 660 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**