

ADVENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3760 Dover Center Road

Westlake, Ohio 44145

(440) 871-6685

March 29, 2024

7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

PRELUDE

PROCESSION IN SILENCE

SALUTATION

BCP 276

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

READING

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Pew Bible 772

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM

40:1-14

BCP 640

- ¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord;*
he stooped to me and heard my cry.
- ² He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay;*
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
- ³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;*
many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust in the Lord.
- ⁴ Happy are they who trust in the Lord!*
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.
- ⁵ Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us!*
there is none who can be compared with you.
- ⁶ Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!*
but they are more than I can count.
- ⁷ In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure*
(you have given me ears to hear you);
- ⁸ Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required,*
and so I said, "Behold, I come.
- ⁹ In the roll of the book it is written concerning me:*

- ‘I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.’”
- ¹⁰ I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation;*
behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.
- ¹¹ Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;*
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness
from the great congregation.
- ¹² You are the Lord;
do not withhold your compassion from me;*
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever,
- ¹³ For innumerable troubles have crowded upon me;
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see;*
they are more in number than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails me.
- ¹⁴ Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;*
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Psalm Response (said)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

READING **Hebrews 10:1-25** **Pew Bible 1261**
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

(Offerings will be given to the Voice of The Martyrs)

OFFERTORY **Glory in the Cross** (Handout p. 14-15 verses 5-7)

INTRODUCTION TO EVERYMAN’S WAY OF THE CROSS

These fourteen steps that you are now about to walk, you do not take alone.
I walk with you.

Though you are you, and I am I, yet we are truly one...one Christ.

And therefore, My way of the cross two thousand years ago and your “way” now are also one.
But note this difference. My life was incomplete until I crowned it by My death. Your fourteen steps will only be complete when you have crowned them by your life.

(Congregation is requested to move to each station as we follow the way of the cross with our Lord Jesus Christ.)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Station I
Jesus is Condemned

In Pilate’s hands, My other self, I see My Father’s will. Though Pilate is unjust, he is the lawful governor and he has power over Me.

And so the Son of God obeys a son of man.

If I can bow to Pilate’s rule because this is My Father’s will, can you refuse obedience to those whom I place over you?

Congregation replies:

My Jesus, Lord, obedience cost You Your life. For me it costs an act of will---no more---and yet how hard it is for me to bend. Remove the blinders from my eyes that I may see that it is You whom I obey in all who govern me. Lord it is You.

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord (Verse 1)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
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?

Stations II & III

Jesus Takes His Cross

This cross, this chunk of tree, is what My Father chose for Me. The crosses you must bear are largely products of your daily life. And yet My Father chose them, too, for you.

Receive them from His hands. Take heart, My other self, I will not let your burdens grow one ounce too heavy for your strength.

Congregation replies:

My Jesus, Lord, I take my daily cross. I welcome the monotony that often marks my day, discomforts of all kinds, the summer's heat, the winter's cold, my disappointments, tensions, setbacks, cares. Remind me often that in carrying my cross, I carry Yours with You. And though I bear a sliver only of Your cross, You carry all of mine, except a sliver, in return.

Jesus Falls

The God who made the universe, and holds it in existence by His will alone, becomes, as man, too weak to bear a piece of timber's weight.

How human in His weakness is the Son of Man. My Father willed it thus. I could not be your model otherwise.

If you would be My other self, you also must accept without complaint your human frailties.

Congregation replies:

Lord Jesus, how can I refuse? I willingly accept my weaknesses, my irritations and my moods, my headaches and fatigue, all my defects of body, mind, and soul. Because they are Your will for me, these "handicaps," of my humanity, I gladly suffer them. Make me content with all my discontents, but give me strength to struggle after You.

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord (Verse 2)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
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?

Stations IV & V

Jesus Meets His Mother

My Mother sees Me whipped. She sees Me kicked and driven like a beast. She counts My every wound. But though her soul cries out in agony, no protest or complaint escapes her lips or even enters on her thoughts.

She shares My martyrdom---and I share hers. We hide no pain, no sorrow, from each other's eyes. This is My Father's will.

Congregation replies:

My Jesus, Lord, I know what You are telling me. To watch the pain of those we love is harder than to bear our own. To carry my cross after You, I, too, must stand and watch the sufferings of my dear ones; the heartaches, sicknesses and grief of those I love. And I must let them watch mine, too. I do believe---for those who love You all things work together unto good. They must!

Simon Helps Jesus

My strength is gone; I can no longer bear the cross alone. And so the legionnaires make Simon give Me aid. This Simon is like you, My other self.

Give Me your strength. Each time you lift some burden from another's back, you lift as with your very hand the cross's awful weight that crushes Me.

Congregation replies:

Lord, make me realize that every time I wipe a dish, pick up an object off the floor, assist a child in some small task, or give another preference in traffic or the store; each time I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, teach the ignorant, or lend my hand in any way---it matters not to whom---my name is Simon. And the kindness I extend to them I really give to You.

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord (Verse 3)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Stations VI & VII

Veronica Helps Jesus

Can you be brave enough, My other self, to wipe My bloody face? Where is My face, you ask? At home whenever eyes fill up with tears, at work when tensions rise, on playgrounds, in the slums, the courts, the hospitals, the jails---wherever suffering exists---My face is there. And there I look for you to wipe away My blood and tears.

Congregation replies:

Lord, what You ask is hard. It calls for courage and self-sacrifice, and I am weak. Please, give me strength. Don't let me run away because of fear.

Lord, live in me and act in me and love in me. And not in me alone---in all men---so that we may reveal no more Your bloody but Your glorious face on earth.

Jesus Falls Again

This seventh step, My other self, is one that tests your will. From this fall learn to persevere in doing good. The time will come when all your efforts seem to fail and you will think, "I can't go on."

Then turn to Me, My heavy-laden one, and I will give you rest. Trust Me and carry on.

Congregation replies:

Give me your courage, Lord. When failure presses heavily on me and I am desolate, stretch out Your hand to lift me up. I know I must not cease, but persevere, in doing good. But help me, Lord. Alone there's nothing I can do. With You, I can do anything You ask. I will.

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord (Verse 4)

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
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?

Stations VIII & IX

Jesus Consoles the Women

How often had I longed to take the children of Jerusalem and gather them to Me. But they refused. But now these women weep for Me and My heart mourns for them---mourns for their sorrows that will come. I comfort those who seek to solace Me. How gentle can you be, My other self, how kind?

Congregation replies:

My Jesus, Your compassion in Your passion is beyond compare. Lord, teach me, help me learn. When I would snap at those who hurt me with their ridicule, those who misunderstand, or hinder me with some misguided helpfulness, those who intrude upon my privacy---then help me curb my tongue.

May gentleness become my cloak. Lord, make me kind like You.

The Third Fall

Completely drained of strength I lie, collapsed, upon the cobble stones. My body cannot move. No blows, no kicks, can rouse it up. And yet My will is Mine. And so is yours. Know this, My other self, your body may be broken, but no force on earth and none in hell can take away your will. Your will is yours.

Congregation replies:

My Lord, I see You take a moment's rest then rise and stagger on. So I can do because my will is mine. When all my strength is gone and guilt and self-reproach press me to earth and seem to hold me fast, protect me from the sin of Judas---save me from despair! Lord, never let me feel that any sin of mine is greater than Your love. No matter what my past has been, I can begin anew.

Stations X & XI

Jesus is Stripped

Behold, My other self, the poorest King, who ever lived. Before My creatures I stand stripped. The cross---My deathbed---even this is not My own. Yet who has ever been so rich?

Possessing nothing, I own all---My Father's love. If you, too, would own everything, be not solicitous about your food, your clothes, your life.

Congregation replies:

My Lord, I offer You all---whatever I possess, and more, my self. Detach me from the craving for prestige, position, wealth. Root out of me all trace of envy of my neighbor who has more than I. Release me from the vice of pride, my longing to exalt myself, and lead me to the lowest place.

May I be poor in spirit, Lord, so that I can be rich in You.

Jesus is Crucified

Can you imagine what a crucifixion is? My executioners stretch My arms; they hold My hand and wrist against the wood and press the nail until it stabs My flesh. Then with one heavy hammer smash, they drive it through---and pain bursts like a bomb of fire in My brain.

They seize the other arm; and agony again explodes. Then raising up My knees so that My feet are flat against the wood, they hammer them fast, too.

Congregation replies:

My God, I look at You and think: Is my soul worth this much? What can I give You in return? I here and now accept for all my life whatever sickness, torment, agony may come. To every cross I touch my lips. O blessed cross that lets me be---with You--a co-redeemer of my fellowmen.

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord (Verse 5)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

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?

Stations XII & XIII

Jesus Dies

The cross becomes a pulpit now---“Forgive them, Father. . . You will be with Me in Paradise. . . There is your mother. . . There. . . your son. . . I thirst. . . It is complete.”

To speak I have to raise Myself by pressing on My wrists and feet, and every move engulfs Me in new waves of agony. And then, when I have borne enough, have emptied My humanity, I let My mortal life depart.

Congregation replies:

*My Jesus, God, what can I say or do? I offer You **my** death with all its pains, accepting now the time and kind of death in store for me. Not by a single instant would I lengthen my life’s span. I offer You my death for My own sins and those of all my fellowmen. My God! My God! Forsake us not. We know not what we do.*

Jesus Is Taken Down

The sacrifice is done. Yes, My Mass is complete; but not My mother’s and not yours, My other self. My mother still must cradle in her arms the lifeless body of the Son she bore. You, too, must part from those you love, and grief will come to you. In your bereavements think of this: A multitude of souls were saved by Mary’s sharing in My Calvary. Your grief can also be the price of souls.

Congregation replies:

I beg You, Lord, help me accept the partings that must come---from friends who go away, my children leaving home, and most of all, my dear ones when You shall call them to Yourself. Then, give me grace to say: “As it has pleased You, Lord, to take them home, I bow to Your most holy will. And if by just one word I might restore their lives against Your will, I would not speak.” Grant them eternal joy.

Station XIV

Jesus is Buried

So ends My mortal life. But now another life begins for Mary, and for Magdalene, for Peter and for John, and you. My work as man is done. My work within and through My Church must now

commence. I look to you, My other self. Day in, day out, from this time forth, be My apostle---victim---saint.

Congregation replies:

My Jesus, Lord, You know my spirit is as willing as my flesh is weak. The teaching You could not impart, the sufferings You could not bear, the works of love You could not do in Your short life on earth, let me impart, and bear, and do through You. But I am nothing, Lord. Help me!

Lord Have Mercy

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

(Congregation kneels at altar rail)

Conclusion

I told you at the start, My other self, My life was not complete until I crowned it by My death.

Your “way” is not complete unless you crown it by your life.

Accept each moment as it comes to you, with faith and trust that all that happens has My mark on it. A simple decree, this is all it takes; a breathing in your heart, “I will it, Lord.” So seek Me not in far-off places. I am close at hand. Your workbench, office, kitchen, these are altars where you offer love. And I am with you there. Go now! Take up your cross and with your life complete your way.

Celebrant We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

People ***because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

Celebrant If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;

if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

People ***We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,***

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

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 Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

FOLLOWING THE CRUCIFER

ALL DEPART IN SILENCE