

From Despair to Praise Good Friday Choral Reading Service, 2021

Prelude O Man, Bewail Thy Grevious Fall

J. S. Bach

O man, thy grievous sin bemoan,
Whence, from His Father's bosom flown,
To earth came Christ, our Savior;
Of virgin mother, undefiled,
For us was born the holy Child,
To be our Mediator.
Unto the dead new life He gave,
The sick from ev'ry ill He saved,
Until His hour of anguish,
When He would be our sacrifice,
Pay for our sins the awful price,
Yea, on the cross would languish.

Opening Section

Greeting

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

(1 Peter 1:18-19, Isaiah 53:4-5)

Opening Prayer

The Garden

Evangelist Matthew 26:36-47

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r, Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour, Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet, Mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

The Trial

Reading Matthew 27:11-26

Song *My Song Is Love Unknown*

arr. by Ed Childs Text by Samuel Crossman (1624-1683)

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I, that for my sake My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew his way and his sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King. Then "Crucify" is all their breath, And for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done to cause this rage and spite? He made the lame to run, and gave the blind their sight. What injuries! Yet these are why the Lord most high So cruelly dies, so cruelly dies, my Savior dies, My song of love so cruelly dies.

Here might I stay and sing of him my soul adores. Never was love, dear king, never was grief like yours! This is my friend in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend, could gladly spend, My song is love.

The Crucifixion

Evangelist Luke 23:32-34

Solo Were You There Spiritual

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?

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?

Reader Psalm 22:1-2 (read responsively)

Leader: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

People: Why are you so far from saving me,

so far from my cries of anguish?

Leader: My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

People: By night, but I find no rest.

Evangelist Matthew 27:45-46

Piano Solo Ah, Holy Jesus

Johann Cruger Text by Johann Heermann

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee: I crucified thee.

Reader Psalm 22:3-8

Leader: Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;

you are the one Israel praises.

People: In you our ancestors put their trust;

they trusted and you delivered them.

Leader: To you they cried out and were saved;

in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

People: But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

Leader: All who see me mock me;

they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

People: "He trusts in the Lord," they say,

"let the Lord rescue him.

Leader: Let him deliver him,

since he delights in him."

Evangelist John 19:25-27

Reader Psalm 22:9-11

Leader: Yet you brought me out of the womb;

you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

People: From birth I was cast on you;

from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Leader: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near

People: and there is no one to help.

Cello Solo Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

arr. Duane Funderburk

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die? Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Reader Psalm 22:12-15

Leader: Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

People: Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths

wide against me.

Leader: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

People: My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.

Leader: My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue

sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

Evangelist John 19:28-29

Viola Solo O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

arr. Raymond H. Haan Text by Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153)

O sacred head now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, Now scornfully surrounded with thorns thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain: Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place; Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

Reader *Psalm* 22:16-18

Leader: Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me;

they pierce my hands and my feet.

People: All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.

Leader: They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

Evangelist Luke 23:34

Reader Psalm 22:19-21

Leader: But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come

quickly to help me.

People: Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from

the power of the dogs.

Leader: Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns

of the wild oxen.

Solo *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

arr. Frederick Maker Text by Elizabeth Clephane

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me; And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess, the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

Reader Psalm 22:22-28

Leader: I will declare your name to my people;

in the assembly I will praise you.

People: You who fear the Lord, praise him!

Leader: All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!

People: Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

Leader: For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;

People: he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his

cry for help.

Leader: From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;

before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

People: The poor will eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord will praise him-

may your hearts live forever!

Leader: All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord.

and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

People: for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.

Evangelist Luke 23:39-43

Duet When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. William Cutter Text by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Reader Psalm 22:29-31

Leader: All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;

all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—

those who cannot keep themselves alive.

Reader: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

Leader: They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn:

He has done it!

Evangelist John 19:30

Solo 'Tis Finished

Deborah Governor Text by Charles Wesley (1762)

'Tis finished! The Messiah dies, cut off for sins, but not His own. Accomplished is the sacrifice; the great redeeming work is done. The veil is rent in Christ alone; the living way to heav'n is seen; The middle wall is broken down, and all the world may enter in. 'Tis finished! 'Tis finished! The Messiah dies.

'Tis finished! All my guilt and pain, I want no sacrifice beside; For me, for me the Lamb is slain; 'tis finished! I am justified. The reign of sin and death is o'er, and all may live from sin set free; Satan has lost his mortal pow'r, 'tis swallowed up in victory. 'Tis finished! 'Tis finished! The Messiah dies.

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine: Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire.

Closing

Evangelist Luke 23:50-54

Solo Were You There Spiritual

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?

Procession Out

Closing the Tomb

Leave in silence.

Readers Chuck King, Thomas Smoak, George Garrison, Lucy LaPlaca,

Samuel Reich, Noah Kim

Musicians Alethea Funck, Mary Hopper, Sarah Holman, Karin Buursma,

Joel Buursma, Howard Whitaker, Claire Collins, Miriam Buursma,

Timothy Holman, Helena Norman

Strepitus Alva Steffler

ELDERS

Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Ron Netzel, Carl Pickard, Sheroll Ritchie, Leon Sinclair, Gaby Sosa, Alva Steffler, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth

DEACONS

Phebe Balzer, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehorn, Debby France, Katie Pickard, Dee Netzel, Tom Nguyen, Heather Reyes (chair), Jack Swanson, Amy Treier, Rebecca Williams

STAFF

George A. Garrison, Senior Pastor; Annette LaPlaca, Minister of Congregational Life; Alva Steffler, Minister of Congregational Care; Mary Hopper, Minister of Music; Annika Durbin, Children's Minister; Anna and Scott Scheidt, Ministers to Youth; Amber Johnson, Business Manager; Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton

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