

April 15, 2022
Good Friday

PRELUDE "Ave Verum Corpus" Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

HYMN **134 VU** "Shadows Gather, Deep and Cold"

Shadows gather, deep and cold;
lamplight flickers, fades and fails.
Lord, you know what daybreak holds:
thorns and beatings, cross and nails.
You will be denied, betrayed
when the rooster wakes the sun.
Yet you kneel alone and pray,
'Not my will, but thine be done.'

In the watches of the night,
in the hour when darkness reigns,
in the grief that has no light,
in the time of fear and pain,
then we hold fast to your way,
to the victory you have won.
Jesus, teach us how to pray,
'Not my will, but thine be done.'

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Lenten journey has led us to this moment.

**Today we come to Calvary, to the foot of the cross,
to be with our Lord.**

This day is one of grief and pain, one of tear-stained hurting.

A time to remember that Jesus died, mocked and rejected;

that he died alone, abandoned by most of his friends;

that he died still loving us.

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Loving God, you sent your Son to live among us so that we might know the depths of your love.

Through Jesus' death you call us to new life in him. Open our hearts and minds as we worship You.

Teach us of your unmerited love. Bless us as we pray the words Jesus taught us to pray, saying,

'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; to thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

John 18:1-11

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 men go." This was to fulfil 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?"

HYMN 144 VU "Were You There"

Were you there in the garden after dark?

Were you there in the garden after dark?

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

Were you there in the garden after dark?

John 18:12-18

So the soldiers, their officer, and the temple police 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 the Sanhedrin 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.

Were you there when disciples turned their backs?

Were you there when disciples turned their backs?

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

Were you there when disciples turned their backs?

John 18:19-27

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 the synagogues and in the temple, where all the people 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 this 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.

Were you there when the cock began to crow?

Were you there when the cock began to crow?

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

Were you there when the cock began to crow?

John 18:28-38a

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 temple authorities replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (this was to fulfil 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 the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the temple authorities. 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?"

Were you there when they took him to be judged?

Were you there when they took him to be judged?

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

Were you there when they took him to be judged?

John 18:38b-19:5

After he said this, he went out to the temple authorities 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 the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit. 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, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "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, "Here is the man!"

**Were you there when they made a crown of thorns?
Were you there when they made a crown of thorns?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they made a crown of thorns?**

John 19:6-16a

When the chief priests and the temple 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 chief priests 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 chief priests cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor." 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 the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

**Were you there when they shouted 'crucify!'?
Were you there when they shouted 'crucify!'?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they shouted 'crucify!'?**

John 19:16b-18

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.

**Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?**

John 19:19-22

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."

The Sign

Leonard Van Harten

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?

John 19:23-25a

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 fulfil what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did.

The Dice

Linda Chanyi

Were you there when they cast lots for his robe?

Were you there when they cast lots for his robe?

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

Were you there when they cast lots for his robe?

John 19:25b-27

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.

Mary, the Mother

Lisa Gardner

Were you there with his mother keeping watch?

Were you there with his mother keeping watch?

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

Were you there with his mother keeping watch?

John 19:28-29

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil 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.

**Were you there when they offered him some wine?
Were you there when they offered him some wine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they offered him some wine?**

John 19:30

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

**Were you there when he bowed his head and died?
Were you there when he bowed his head and died?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he bowed his head and died?**

John 19:31-37

Since it was the day of Preparation, the temple authorities 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 may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) 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."

**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?**

John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the temple authorities, 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 the burial custom of the Jews. 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 Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**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?**

LENTEN LITURGY

Jesus believed in life abundant for all people.

Jesus lived life abundant for all people.

Do you believe in life abundant for yourself? For the world?

(rock is placed, Christ candle is extinguished)

The rock of life.

May God's spirit walk with us.

A TIME OF SILENCE

LITANY AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Saviour of the world, what have you done to deserve this?

and what have we done to deserve you?

We gather at the foot of the cross, longing to understand.

**We see you hanging there, between two criminals,
cursed and spat upon, waiting for death, and we hear you say,
"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."**

Forgive us, Lord, for not knowing what we have done;

open our eyes to the reality of crucifixion in our world;

open our ears to the cries for life and dignity.

Give us courage to face the challenges set before us,

the crosses you call us to bear.

In the Good Fridays of our lives,

implant in us the strong assurances of the Resurrection.

**Crucified Saviour, naked God,
you hang disgraced and powerless.**

Grieving we dare to hope....

Hoping, we wait, at the foot of the cross.

Amen.

HYMN 153 VU "When the Son of God Was Dying"

When the Son of God was dying, long ago,
some played dice and some knelt crying, lost and low.
Cynics sneered and wagged their tongues,
mockers mimicked funeral songs:
this, while God's own Son was dying, long ago.

Crowds which once had cried, 'Hosanna!', lost their voice:
hell had grinned to hear Barrabas was their choice;
Judas hung himself for blame;
Peter hung his head in shame,
while the crowds which cried, 'Hosanna!', lost their voice.

Horror, hurt and pain found home in Mary's breast
watching torture's toll and hearing soldiers jest:
where was God to hear her cry?
Why should her own Jesus die?
Grief and agony found home in Mary's breast.

Jesus, lay your body in this sad earth's grave;
only one who suffers can presume to save.
End hypocrisy and lies,
through our apathy arise,
bring us the salvation which our spirits crave.

You are invited to leave in silence when you are ready.