



FOR REFLECTION

“Despite our earnest efforts, we couldn't climb all the way up to God. So what did God do? In an amazing act of condescension, on Good Friday, God climbed down to us, became one with us. The story of divine condescension begins on Christmas and ends on Good Friday. We thought, if there is to be business between us and God, we must somehow get up to God. Then God came down, down to the level of the cross, all the way down to the depths of hell. He who knew not sin took on our sin so that we might be free of it. God still stoops, in your life and mine, condescends.”

WILLIAM WILLIMON

“With all due respect to the religions of the world, there is no other story like the Christian story. The god who thunders, the god who persecutes and condemns, the god who wreaks vengeance - yes, we know this god from the caricatures. We know this god from the old paintings. We know this god from hearing continual references to "the Old Testament God." But this is not who God is. "The Old Testament God" is the one who has come down from his throne on high into the world of sinful human flesh and of his own free will and decision has come under his own judgment in order to deliver us from everlasting condemnation and bring us into eternal life. He has not required human sacrifice; he has himself become the human sacrifice. He has not turned us over and forsaken us; he was himself turned over and forsaken. This is what the Old Testament prophet Isaiah says: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. (53:4-5)”

FLEMING RUTLEDGE

“The dripping blood our only drink,
The bloody flesh our only food:
In spite of which we like to think
That we are sound, substantial flesh and blood--
Again, in spite of that, we call this Friday good.”

T.S. ELIOT

Cover art: "Jesus Falls for the First Time" by Eric Gill (1882-1940), wood engraving on paper

GOOD FRIDAY: A SERVICE OF SHADOWS*

APRIL 7, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Today the carpenter's hands are nailed to a cross,
the King of kings is crowned with thorns
and wears the purple robe of mockery.
Today he sets us free, himself imprisoned on a tree.
Today is God's Friday. We come in worship.

All **King of Glory, we adore you, our Savior and Lord.**
King of Love, we lament our sin and the sin of the world.
You suffered on the cross and gave your life as a ransom for many.
We bless and thank you for the outpouring of your love
and offer our worship today out of unspeakable gratitude. Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE: *HOLY GOD, HOLY & MIGHTY*

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty Holy immortal one
Have mercy
Have mercy on us

**About Tenebrae, A Service of Shadows*

The service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae. The service is prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering. The Readings trace the story of Christ's passion, the music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death; and through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory. This service is adapted from resources from Calvin Seminary.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader Merciful God,
we meet each other today at the foot of the cross,
as people broken by sin.

**Together We wait with each other as those who inflict wounds on one another;
as those who deny justice to others;
as those who put our trust in power;
as those who are greedy;
as those who put others on trial;
as those who twist your words to justify our ambitions;
as those who deny you because we are afraid;
as those who refuse to be shattered by the cross of your Son, our Lord.**

Silence is kept together.

Leader Jesus, Lamb of God,

Together have mercy on us.

Leader Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Together have mercy on us.

Leader Jesus, redeemer of the world,

Together grant us peace.

Leader Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed. (*1 Peter 2:24*)

All Thanks be To God. Amen.

MARK 14:10-13; 16-21: THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. 11 And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him. 12 And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" 13 And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him...."

16 And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. 17 And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." 19 They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

SONG OF RESPONSE: BLESSED BE OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER

Blessed be our God forever and ever

Blessed be our God forever and ever

Blessed be our God forever and ever. Amen

LUKE 22:39-48, 54A: THE SHADOW OF THE AGONY OF THE SPIRIT & ARREST

39 And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." 41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." 43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, 46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation." 47 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house...

SONG OF RESPONSE: STAY WITH ME HERE

My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow

My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death

My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow

Stay with me here, stay with me here

Stay with me and keep watch with me.

Stay with me here and keep watch with me.

LUKE 22:54B-62: THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

54 Peter was following at a distance. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." 57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

SONG OF RESPONSE: SURELY OUR GRIEFS AND SORROWS HE CARRIED

Surely our griefs and sorrows He carried
One day he will wipe away each tear
Surely our griefs and sorrows He carried
One day he will wipe away each tear

MARK 15:1-15: THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

1 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. 2 And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." 3 And the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

6 Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. 7 And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. 8 And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. 9 And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 10 For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. 12 And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" 13 And they cried out again, "Crucify him." 14 And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

SONG OF RESPONSE: HOW LONG?

How long, will You turn Your face away?
How long, do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way,
how long?
How long, till Your children find their rest?
How long, till You draw them to Your breast?
We go on, holding to Your promises,
how long?
Till You wipe away the tears from every eye,
Till we see our home descending from the sky?
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus give us hope again!
How long, till Your word will still the storm?

How long, till You bear Your mighty arm?
How we groan, till You snatch us from the thorns,
how long?
How long, sweet the dawn that ends the race?
How long, weak our hearts but strong our legs?
Looking on, great the cloud of witnesses,
how long?

SONG OF RESPONSE: YOUR WILL BE DONE

Your will be done on earth, O Lord	Restrain and guide our flesh and blood
As in Heaven	That acts against Your will
Grant us patience in times of sorrow	Your will be done
To be obedient in love and suffering, O God	

MATTHEW 27:27-31: THE SHADOW OF MOCKERY

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,[a] and they gathered the whole battalion[b] before him. 28 And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

SONG OF RESPONSE: HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN

He made Him who knew no sin
To die to set us free
He made Him who knew no sin
To be sin for us

SONG OF RESPONSE: O GREAT LOVE

O great love, O love beyond all measure
That You would lay down Your life
for faithless sinners
You did not turn away
From those who struck Your face
O great love, O love beyond all telling
May my cold heart be broken by Your suffering
O great love, struck down but not destroyed
Now who can look upon that sight
The king of love now crucified
Now who can look upon that sight
The Son of God now crucified

LUKE 23:32-43: THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. 35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

SILENCE IS KEPT TOGETHER

MARK 15:33-39: THE SHADOW OF DEATH

33 And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 35 And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." 36 And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." 37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

SILENCE IS KEPT TOGETHER

INTERCESSIONS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The following extended prayer is adapted from a traditional text for “solemn intercessions.” In some traditions Good Friday is the day for the longest and most wide-ranging intercessory prayer of the entire year. As we experience Christ’s identification with the suffering of the world, we are bold to pray:

Leader At the foot of the cross, let us pray for the world in the name of the one who died for the world: Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that justice and peace may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of those who beg, “How long, how long?” Hear the cry of those in misery and need. Hear the cry of those in need of justice. In their afflictions show them your mercy, and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, for the sake of him who suffered for us.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Merciful God, creator of the peoples of the earth and lover of souls, have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ. Let your gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it. Turn the hearts of those who resist it and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray. Make us one as Jesus prayed.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

(In silence, continue offering prayers of lament and hope for yourself, neighbor, and world.)

Leader Finally, let us boldly pray as Jesus Christ taught:

**All Our Father 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

JOHN 19:31-42: THE SHADOW OF BURIAL

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35 He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.”

37 And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body.

39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

SONG OF RESPONSE: NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

1. What can take away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

2. For my pardon this I see,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!
For my cleansing this my plea,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!

CHORUS

O, precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus

3. Nothing can for sin atone,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!
Naught for good that I have done,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!

4. This is all my hope and peace,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!
This is all my righteousness,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!

CLOSING PRAYERS

Leader

O Savior of the world,
who by thy cross and precious blood has redeemed us:

All

Save us and help us, we humbly ask, O Lord.

Leader

Christ Jesus you hung upon a cross and died for us
so that we might live for you;
your body was broken and your blood shed
so that we might be healed and made whole;
you were faithful unto death
so that we might be faithful unto life.
Your last command was that we might love one another,
one family together from every tribe and nation,
a new creation united through your sacrifice
redeemed by your blood, healed by your love
united by your covenant of peace.
In your death may we find life.

All

**Though we walk through the valley of death, we will fear no evil.
For we are sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
We long and wait for him, our Redeemer,
more than the night watchman for the morning.
more than the night watchman for the morning. Amen.**

THE FINAL READING: JOHN 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The final last candle is lit.

DEPARTURE

All leave in silence.

JOIN US ON EASTER SUNDAY!

9 AM -- Family and Kids Program at the Senior Center

10 AM -- Easter Worship at the Memorial Park Bandshell

12 PM -- Easter Picnic!

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