



Good Friday

2023 AD

Carlton Landing Community Church

Good Friday

The word Gethsemane means “oil press.” In those days, when olives were gathered, they were poured into a woven bag and placed beneath a millstone. These stones, which could weigh hundreds of pounds, would press the olives into the ground, and soon they began to sweat.

A steep ravine runs down the east side of Jerusalem, and on the other side is the Mount of Olives. Some of the oldest trees in the world can be found on these slopes. From the days of Solomon, the olive oil from the Mount of Olives had been used in the temple. This particular oil was used in the lampstand, the only light left burning in the temple overnight. The everlasting light of these lampstands represented the everlasting presence of God.

Jesus had probably prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives many times. It was a familiar place to him, a place of prayer and refuge. As David fled there for refuge when his kingdom was under siege, Jesus went there on the night he would be betrayed. In a few hours, he would go to the cross, bearing the sins of his people and facing the wrath of God. As Jesus knelt to pray that night, the weight of the sins of his people began to press him into the ground. Soon he began to sweat drops of blood.

Every storyline of history converged in the garden that night. In hindsight, it was the second time the fate of humanity hung in the balance in a garden. Since our first parents disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, we have all lived under the dominion of death. From then on, death reigned. Humanity had been expelled from the garden and from the presence of God.

Looking across the valley that night, Jesus would have seen the temple exalted above the surrounding landscape. He would have been intimately familiar with the sacrificial system, the bloody act of offering a bull or a goat as a stand-in payment for sin. He would have seen a small glimpse of the cost of sin every day he walked through the temple courts.

This night, every storyline of history was about to change. A new sacrifice would be made. An act of obedience in a garden would open the way of life for all people. In Adam, all died, but in Christ, all would be made alive. In Adam, we lost the face to face relationship with God, but in Christ, our relationship would be restored.

On Good Friday, we celebrate the crucifixion of our Lord in anticipation of his resurrection. As we read, sing, and respond this evening, we invite you into the depth of Christ's suffering so that you might know the riches of his grace. We ask you to think about his payment for your sin so that you might know his offer of forgiveness. We sing of his death so that we might experience the fullness of his life. We walk through the darkness of Good Friday so that we might live in the light of Easter.

*"Surely he has born our griefs and carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our sins,
Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
And by his wounds we are healed."* Isaiah 53:4-5

Pastor Cole

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus, the Nazarene,
and wonder how he could love me,
a sinner, condemned, unclean.

*How marvelous, how wonderful!
and my song shall ever be:
How marvelous, how wonderful
is my Savior's love for me!*

He took my sins and my sorrows;
he made them his very own;
he bore the burden to Calvary
and suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory
his face I at last shall see,
'twill be my joy through the ages
to sing of his love for me.

Words: Charles H. Gabriel, P.D.

Music (MY SAVIOR'S LOVE 8.7.8.7 refrain 8.7.8.7): Charles H. Gabriel, P.D.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Man of sorrows— what a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood,
sealed my pardon with his blood:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Guilty, helpless, lost were we;
blameless Lamb of God was he,
sacrificed to set us free:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

He was lifted up to die;
“It is finished” was his cry;
now in heaven exalted high:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

When he comes, our glorious King,
all his ransomed home to bring,
then anew this song we’ll sing:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Words: Philip P. Bliss, 1875, alt., P.D.

Music (HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR 7.7.7.8): Philip P. Bliss, 1875, alt., P.D.

The Garden

Reading 1: Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." [37] And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. [38] Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." [39] And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." [40] And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? [41] Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." [42] Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." [43] And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. [44] So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. [45] Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. [46] Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Responses:

On the night that he was betrayed, Jesus went to his father in prayer. He prayed until sweat rolled down his brow like drops of blood. He poured himself out on our behalf and gave himself up for us all.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces. He was despised, and we esteemed him not.

The one who lived a perfect life has died in our place. He was handed over for thirty pieces of silver. He was abandoned by his friends. He was left to die alone.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrow, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Even the disciples could not stay awake for an hour. Jesus preferred Peter to pray with him than fight for him. Sleep overcame the eleven.

The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

The Arrest

Reading 2: John 18:1-6

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. [2] Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. [3] So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. [4] Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" [5] They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. [6]

When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Responses:

When they came before Jesus, they could not stand in his presence. When he uttered his name, they fell back. In that moment, they were standing on holy ground.

The earth is the Lord's in all of its fullness, the world and everyone who dwells on it.

They came treating him like a criminal. They did not know he was a king. Moses wrote of him, the prophets saw and spoke about him. David said of him:

Who is this king of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty.

God is holy and sin can never be in his presence. Who can go into the presence of the Lord? Who can stand before him?

There is no one righteous, not a single person. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned, every one of us, to our own ways. Out of his great love for us, God put all of our sins on him.

Who is this king of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, even the King of Israel.

The Trial

Reading 3: Mark 15:1-15

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.

The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath: We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees,
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the victory cry.

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

*This, the power of the cross: Son of God, slain for us.
What a love! What a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Word and Music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty, 2005 Thankyou Music

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Words and Music: Stuart Townend, 1995 Thankyou Music

There Is a Redeemer

There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy One

*Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*

Jesus my redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Oh, for sinners slain

When I stand in Glory
I will see His face
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that Holy Place

Words and Music: Melody Green, 1982 Birdwing Music

The Crucifixion

Reading 4: Luke 23:26-43

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. [27] And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. [28] But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. [29] For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' [30] Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' [31] For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

[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.”

Responses:

Even as he was dying he was forgiving. He loved us to the end. He gave his life for us.

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our sins, the punishment that brought us peace fell upon him. With his wounds we are healed.

This was the only way. There is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. Every sin must be paid for, either by us or by him.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him, he has put him to grief. And they made his grave with the wicked, although he had done nothing wrong. There was no deceit in his mouth and no sin in his life.

O God, you have forsaken your son to be reunited with us. He was mocked and spit upon. He was put to shame before the people he came to save.

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord. All the families of the nations will worship him. For kingship belongs to the Lord and by his blood he rules over the nations.

The Last Breath

Reading 5: Mark 15:33-39

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!"

Responses:

When he breathed his last, the earth shook and the rocks were split in two.

If we will not praise him, even the rocks will cry out.

An earthquake shook the temple and the curtain separating God from humanity was torn in two from top to bottom.

Through his death, he made a way back to God. Paradise has been re-opened and a spring of living water flows out of the sanctuary.

Since Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, we had been separated from God. Only a perfect person could bridge the

gap and cancel our contract with death. Surely this man was the Son of God!

He is worthy to reign. By his death he ransomed a people for God from every tribe, tongue, and nation. If we have died with him, we will live with him. If we suffer with him, we will reign with him. His faithfulness endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

His steadfast love endures forever.

Here is our confidence: There is no condemnation for those who are in Jesus Christ. If God did not spare his only begotten son, how could we ever doubt that he will give us all things? What could separate us from his love?

Neither death nor life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come can ever separate us from his love. Neither life nor death, nothing will separate us from his love.

To make a payment for our sins, Jesus had to die. Though he pleaded with God, it was the only way. His love is stronger than death. He defeated death by dying. He gave us life by rising.

Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy, holy is He
Sing a new song to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings
You are my everything and I will adore You*

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory and power be
To You the only one who's King

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power, breath and living water
Such a marvelous mystery

Words and Music: Jennie Lee Riddle, 2009 Integrity Music

See the Destined Day Arise

See the destined day arise!
See a willing sacrifice!
Jesus, to redeem our loss,
Hangs upon the shameful cross;
Jesus, who but You could bear
Wrath so great and justice fair?
Every pang and bitter throe, finishing Your life of woe?

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lamb of God for sinners slain!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Jesus Christ, we praise Your name!

Who but Christ had dared to drain,
Steeped in gall, the cup of pain
And with tender body bear
Thorns and nails and piercing spear?
Slain for us, the water flowed,
Mingled from Your side with blood;
Sign to all attesting eyes, of the finished sacrifice.

Holy Jesus, grant us grace
In that sacrifice to place
All our trust for life renewed,
Pardoned sin, and promised good.
Grant us grace to sing Your praise
'Round Your throne through endless days,
Ever with the sons of light: "Blessing, honor, glory, might!"

Original words: Venantius Fortunatus (c.530-600), tr. Richard Mant (1837),
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Alt. words, chorus, and music: Matthew Merker, 2014 Sovereign Grace Music

