

Good Friday Service
April 15, 2022

Tolling of the Bell

First Scripture Reading ~ Luke 22:39-46 Martha Thompson

39 Jesus left the upper room with his disciples and,
as was his habit, went to the Mount of Olives,
his place of secret prayer.
40 There he told the apostles, “Keep praying for strength to be spared
from the severe test of your faith that is about to come.”
41 Then he withdrew from them a short distance to be alone.
Kneeling down, he prayed,
42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup of agony away from me.
But no matter what, your will must be mine.”
43 Jesus called for an angel of glory to strengthen him,
and the angel appeared.
44 He prayed even more passionately, like one being sacrificed,
until he was in such intense agony of spirit
that his sweat became drops of blood, dripping onto the ground.
45 When Jesus finished praying, he got up and went to his disciples and
found them all asleep,
for they were exhausted and overwhelmed with sorrow.
46 “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them.
“You need to be alert and pray
for the strength to endure the great temptation.”

Song ~ “Tis Midnight, and on Olive’s Brow” (#194 blue v. 1, 2, 4)

Verse 1

*‘Tis midnight and on Olive’s brow the star is dimmed that lately shone
‘Tis midnight in the garden now. The suffering Savior prays alone*

Verse 2

*‘Tis midnight, and from all removed. The Savior wrestles lone with fears
E’en that disciple whom he loved heeds not the Savior’s grief and tears*

Verse 4

*‘Tis midnight, and from heavenly plains is borne the song that angels know
Unheard by mortals are the strains that gently soothe the Savior’s woe*

Words ~ William Tappan, 1822, Music ~ William Bradbury, 1853 | Public Domain

Second Reading ~ Luke 22:47-53

Michaelanne Sylvester

47 No sooner had he finished speaking when suddenly a mob approached,
and in front of the mob was his disciple Judas.
He walked up close to Jesus and greeted him with a kiss.
For he had agreed to give the religious leaders a sign,
saying, “The one I kiss is the one to seize.”
48 Jesus looked at him with sorrow and said, “A kiss, Judas?
Are you really going to betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”
49 When the other disciples understood what was happening, they asked,
“Lord, shall we fight them with our swords?”
50 Just then, one of the disciples swung his sword at the high priest’s servant
and slashed off his right ear.
51 Jesus stopped the incident from escalating any further by saying,
“Enough of this!”
Then he touched the right side of the injured man’s head, and he was healed!
52 Jesus turned to those who had come to seize him—the ruling priests,
the officers of the temple police, and the religious leaders—and said,
“Am I a criminal that you come to capture me with clubs and swords?
Wasn’t I with you day after day, teaching in the temple courts?
53 You could have seized me at any time.
But in the darkness of night you have now found your time,
for it belongs to you and to the prince of darkness.”

Song ~ “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (#196, blue v. 1 & 2)

*Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter’s power
Your Redeemer’s conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour
Turn not from his griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray
Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of him to bear the cross.*

Words ~ James Montgomery, 1825, Music ~ Richard Redhead, 1853

Third Reading ~ Luke 22:54-62**Jim Holden**

54 The religious leaders seized Jesus and led him away,
 but Peter followed from a safe distance.
 They brought him to the home of the high priest,
 where people were already gathered out in the courtyard.
 55 Someone had built a fire,
 so Peter inched closer and sat down among them to stay warm.
 56 A girl noticed Peter sitting in the firelight.
 Staring at him, she pointed him out and said,
 “This man is one of Jesus’ disciples!”
 57 Peter flatly denied it, saying,
 “What are you talking about, girl? I don’t know him!”
 58 A little while later, someone else spotted Peter and said,
 “I recognize you. You’re one of his, I know it!”
 Peter again said, “I’m not one of his disciples.”
 59 About an hour later, someone else identified Peter
 and insisted he was a disciple of Jesus, saying,
 “Look at him! He’s from Galilee, just like Jesus. I know he’s one of them.”
 60 But Peter was adamant. “Listen, I don’t know what you’re talking about.
 Don’t you understand? I don’t even know him.”
 While the words were still in his mouth, the rooster crowed.
 61 At that moment, the Lord, who was being led through the courtyard
 by his captors, turned around and gazed at Peter.
 All at once Peter remembered the words Jesus had prophesied over him,
 “Before the rooster crows in the morning,
 you will deny three times that you even know me.”
 62 Peter burst into tears, ran off from the crowd, and wept bitterly.

Song ~ “Were You There?” # 198 (v. 1 only)

*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?*

African-American Spiritual, adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith, 1986
 The United Methodist Publishing House

Fourth Reading ~ Luke 22:63-71**Jim West**

63 Those who were guarding Jesus mocked and beat him severely.
 63 They also made fun of him,
 64 blindfolding him and slapping his face and saying,
 “Prove that you are a prophet and tell us which one of us hit you!”
 65 They blasphemed and heaped insult after insult upon him.
 65 At daybreak the high priests, the experts of the law,
 66 and the top religious leaders convened
 67 and had Jesus brought before their council.
 68 They asked him point blank,
 69 “Tell us, are you the Christ, the Messiah, or not?”
 Jesus responded, “If I tell you the truth, you won’t believe me.
 68 And if I question you, you will not answer me or release me.
 69 But from today on, the Son of Man will be enthroned
 in the place of honor, power, and authority with Almighty God.”
 70 They all shouted, “Then you do claim to be the Son of God?”
 He said to them, “You are the ones who say I am.”
 70 They all shouted, “We’ve heard it from his very lips!
 71 What further proof do we need?”

Song ~ “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” (#202, blue)

*O sacred Head, now wounded with grief and shame weighed down
 Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown
 How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn
 How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!*

*What though, O Christ 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, and keep me in thy grace*

*What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest Friend
 For this they dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
 O make me thine forever, and should I fainting be
 O, let me never, never outlive my love to thee*

Words Attr. Bernard of Clairvaux 12th century, tr. James Alexander 1830,
 Music ~ Hans L. Hassler, 1601

Fifth Reading ~ Luke 23:1-12**Paul Bauers**

1 The entire council stood at once
and took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor.
2 They accused him of false testimony, saying,
“This man tells us not to pay our taxes to Caesar.
And he proclaims himself to be Christ the King and Messiah.
He’s a deceiver of our nation.”
3 Pilate asked Jesus, “Is this true? Are you their king and Messiah?”
Jesus answered, “It is true.”
4 Pilate turned to the high priests and to the gathered crowd and said,
“This man has committed no crime. I find nothing wrong with him.”
5 But they yelled and demanded that Pilate do something, saying,
“He has stirred up our nation, misleading people from the moment he began
teaching in Galilee until he has come here to Jerusalem!”
6-7 When Pilate heard the word Galilee, he asked if Jesus was a Galilean,
and when they told him “yes,” Pilate saw a way out of his problem.
He knew that Antipas, son of Herod, ruled over Galilee,
and he happened to be in Jerusalem at that time,
so Pilate sent Jesus to Antipas.
8 When he saw Jesus, he was elated,
for he had heard a great deal about his ministry
and wanted Jesus to perform a miracle in front of him.
9 Antipas questioned him at length, but Jesus wouldn’t even answer him.
10-11 All the while the high priests and religious leaders stood by,
accusing Jesus of wrongdoing,
so that Antipas and his soldiers treated him with scorn and mocking.
Antipas put an elegant purple robe on Jesus and sent him back to Pilate.
12 That day, Antipas and Pilate healed their long-standing feud,
and they became good friends.

Song ~ “Who Would Ever Have Believed It?” (#213, blue v. 1-3)

*Who would ever have believed it? Who could ever have conceived it?
Who dared trace God’s hand behind it when a servant came among us?
We despised him, we disowned him, though he clearly hurt and suffered
We believing he was worthless, never looked on him with favor
Though our sins let him be wounded, though our cruelty left him beaten
Yet, through how and why he suffered, God revealed our hope of healing*

Words ~ Iona Community, 1988 Music ~ Swedish melody

Sixth Reading ~ Luke 23:13-25**Bryan Richheimer**

13-14 Pilate gathered together the people, the high priests,
and all the religious leaders of the nation.
He told them, “You have presented this man to me and charged him with
stirring a rebellion among the people.
I have examined him here in your presence and have put him on trial.
My verdict is that none of your charges against him are true.
I find no fault in him.
15-16 Then I sent him to Antipas, son of Herod,
who questioned him and found him not guilty.
Since he has done nothing deserving of death,
I have decided to punish him with a severe flogging and release him.”
17 For it was Pilate’s custom to honor the Jewish holiday
by releasing a prisoner.
18 When the crowd heard this, they went wild. Erupting with anger,
they cried out, “No! Take this one away and release Barabbas!”
19 For Barabbas had been thrown in prison for robbery and murder.
20 Pilate, wanting to release Jesus,
tried to convince them it was best to let Jesus go,
21 but they screamed out over and over, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”
22 A third time, Pilate asked the crowd,
“What evil crime has this man committed that I should have him crucified?
I haven’t found one thing that warrants a death sentence!
I will have him flogged severely and then release him.”
23 But the people and the high priests, shouting like a mob,
screamed out at the top of their lungs, “No! Crucify him! Crucify him!”
Finally their shouts and screams succeeded.
24 Pilate caved in to the crowd
and ordered that the will of the people be done.
25 Then he released the Barabbas, as they had insisted,
and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Song ~ “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (#197, blue)

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day
Upon that 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
I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss
My sinful self, my only shame, my glory all the cross*

Words ~ Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872, Music ~ Frederick C. Maker, 1881

Seventh Reading ~ Luke 23:26-43 Lois Squires

26 As the guards led Jesus to be crucified,
there was an African man in the crowd named Simon, from Libya.
He had just arrived from a rural village to keep the Feast of the Passover.
The guards laid Jesus’ cross on Simon’s shoulders
and forced him to walk behind Jesus, carrying his cross.
27 Massive crowds gathered to follow Jesus, including a number of women,
who were wailing with sorrow over him.
28 Jesus turned to them and said,
“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me.
You should be weeping for yourselves and your children.
29 The day is coming when it will not be the women with children
who are blessed but those who are childless.
Then you will say, ‘The barren women are the most fortunate!
Those who have never given birth and never nursed a child—
they are more fortunate than we,
for they will never see their children put to death!’
30 And the people will cry out for the mountains and hills
to fall on top of them to hide them from all that is to come.
31 For if this is what they do to the living Branch,
what will they do with the dead ones?”
32 The guards led away two criminals with Jesus,
to execute all three at the same time.
33 When they came to the place that is known as The Skull,

the guards crucified Jesus,
nailing him on the center cross between the two criminals.
34 While they were nailing Jesus to the cross, he prayed over and over,
“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.”
The soldiers, after they crucified him, gambled over his clothing.
35 A great crowd gathered to watch what was happening.
The religious leaders sneered at Jesus and mocked him, saying,
“Look at this man! What kind of ‘chosen Messiah’ is this?
He pretended to save others, but he can’t even save himself!”
36 The soldiers joined in the mockery, offering Jesus a drink of vinegar.
37-38 Over Jesus’ head on the cross was written an inscription in Greek,
Latin, and Aramaic: “This man is the king of all the Jews.”
And all the soldiers laughed and scoffed at him, saying,
“Hey! If you’re the king of Jews, why don’t you save yourself?”
39 One of the criminals hanging on the cross next to Jesus kept ridiculing
him, saying, “What kind of Messiah are you?
Save yourself and save us from this death!”
40 The criminal hanging on the other cross rebuked the man, saying,
“Don’t you fear God? You’re about to die!
41 We deserve to be condemned. We’re just being repaid
for what we’ve done. But this man—he’s done nothing wrong!”
42 Then he said, “I beg of you, Jesus, show me grace
and take me with you into your everlasting kingdom!”
43 Jesus responded, “I promise you—
this very day you will enter paradise with me.”

Song ~

“Above All”

*Above all powers above all kings, above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began
Above all kingdoms above all thrones,
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth.
There's no way to measure what You're worth
Crucified laid behind the stone. You lived to die rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground,
You took the fall and thought of me above all **(Repeat all)**
Like a rose, trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me above all*

Eighth Reading ~ Luke 23:44-46 Jim Holden

44 It was now only midday, yet the whole world became dark
for three hours as the light of the sun faded away.
45 And suddenly in the temple the thick veil hanging in the Holy Place
was ripped in two!
46 Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice,
“Father, I surrender my Spirit into your hands.”
And he took his last breath and died.



Choir Song ~ “Bring Me to the Cross”

*Bring me to the cross.
Let me find my place.
Lead me to the wounded tree that hold the Lord of grace.
Help me come to Jesus.
Lift my eyes to see.
Bring me to the cross, the cross of Calvary.
Bring me to the cross.
Let me kneel and pray.
Mercy waits with healing touch to wipe my tears away.
Thorns of sin I bring Him,
Nails of grief and pride.
I hold the spear that pierces, yet He draws me to His side.
Join me at the cross, for all must pass its way.
Love’s arms are open wide and reaching still today.
Come behold the Savior, the Lamb who sets us free.
Join me at the cross,
The cross of Calvary.
The cross of Calvary.*

Ninth Reading ~ Luke 23:47-56

Dottie Sundquist

47 When the Roman captain overseeing the crucifixion witnessed all that
took place, he was awestruck and glorified God.
Acknowledging what they had done, he said,
“I have no doubt; we just killed the righteous one.”
48 The crowds that had gathered to observe this spectacle
went back to their homes, overcome with deep sorrow
and devastated by what they had witnessed.
49 But standing off at a distance were some who truly knew Jesus,
and the women who had followed him all the way from Galilee
were keeping vigil.
50-51 There was also a member of the Jewish council named Joseph,
from the village of Ramah,
a good-hearted, honorable man who was eager for God’s kingdom to appear.
He had strongly disagreed with the decision of the council to crucify Jesus.
52 He came before Pilate and asked permission to take the body of Jesus
for a proper burial, and Pilate granted his request.
53 So he took the body from the cross,
wrapped it in a winding sheet of linen,
and placed it in a new, unused tomb chiseled out of solid rock.
54 It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was fast approaching.
55 The women who had been companions of Jesus from the beginning
saw all this take place
and carefully contemplated how the body was laid in the tomb.
56 Afterward they returned home and prepared fragrant spices and ointments
and were planning to anoint his body after the Sabbath was completed,
according to the commandments of the law.

Final Song ~ “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (#214, blue)

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee
Let the water and the blood
From thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure
Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and thou alone
Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling
Naked, come to thee for dress
Helpless, look to thee for grace
Foul, I to the fountain fly
Wash me Savior, or I die
While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.*

Words ~ Augustus M. Toplady, 1776 Music, Thomas Hastings, 1830

Depart in Silence