

Good Friday, March 29, 2024

Bloomington Mennonite Church

**Journeys with Jesus:
Towards the Cross**



Prelude

Welcome and Introduction

Congregational Hymn – VT #317 Go to Dark Gethsemane

Praying (and sleeping) In Gethsemane - Mark 14:32-37a
– Readers: Graham D., **Zac K.**

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping.

Congregational Hymn – VT #319 Stay with Me, the Night Has Come

Prayer

Lord, you ask us to stay awake; awake to the needs of others around us, awake to the sound of your voice spoken through the voice of the poor and the distressed. In your temptation in the desert, you showed us how to stay awake through prayer and expectation.

*Lord Jesus, Help us to stay awake
With those facing dark nights
Who need prayer
Who watch for you
Who weep in their distress.
That we might achieve not our will, but God's.*



Walking the Road with Jesus (Fleeing and following at a distance) – Mark 14:41b-43, 46, 50, 53-54 – Readers: Graham D., Zac K.

After Jesus found Peter and the others sleeping on three different occasions throughout the night, he said “**Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.**” Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. All of them deserted him and fled. They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

Congregational Hymn & Prayer – Kyrie Eleison (back page of bulletin)



At the High Priest's House (Denying) – Mark 14:55-72
Readers: Graham D., John-eric P., Paul F., Zac K., Sarah F., Lois C., Micah K.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, “**We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'**” Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus... “**Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?**” Jesus said, “**I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'**” All of them condemned him as deserving death. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by...she stared at him and said, “**You also were with Jesus.**” But he denied it. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl began again to say to the bystanders, “**This man is one of them.**” But again he denied it. Then the bystanders again said to Peter, “**Certainly you are one of them.**” But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “**I do not know this man.**” At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “**Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.**” And he broke down and wept.



Congregational Hymn – VT# 149 Forgive, Forgive Us, Holy God

Prayer

We remember your words in the temple the day you turned over tables. Like the many who took offence at your disruption of business as usual, we too would rather give false testimony or deny you than stand up to injustice with you. **Forgive us, Lord Jesus.**

Before Pilate and (among) the Crowds – Mark 15:1-2, 4-6,
8, 15-17 Readers: Graham D., **Zac K.**, **Wayne K.**

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so."...Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom....So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers...clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

Congregational Hymn – VT # 325 O Sacred Head

Prayer

We remember walking with you towards Jerusalem with the crowds. Then it was as if the whole world wished to learn from you. Now the crowds call for your death, political powers conspire to push you down, and the ruler of this world seeks to destroy God's kingdom. Here we face our fickle allegiances and the power of evil. But we also remember the bread you shared with us and that you told us that the fruit of your ministry would come only through giving yourself completely to the world, like a grain of wheat falling to the ground.



***Lord Jesus, save us from the fickle devotion of the crowd.
Weed out the evil within us. Nurture us, the seeds of your
planting, that we may neither harm nor destroy in God's Garden.***

Leaving Jerusalem, (compelled) to Walk to Golgotha –
Mark 15:20-24 – Readers: Graham D.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

BMC Choir –VT #330 Ah, Holy Jesus

Prayer

Before we walked gladly, willingly with you into Jerusalem as glad shouts of "Hosanna" rang out. Now, on the road to Golgotha, we walk only because we are compelled, forced to. Gone are the cloaks and palm branches. Now every rough, rocky stage of the road is felt as we approach the place of the Skull. Though we may not want to walk to this end, the least we can do is accompany you here.



***Jesus, save us from selfishness.
Grow in us the desire for God's kingdom and righteousness.
Give us the courage to carry each other's burdens.
Give us the strength to walk alongside:
Those who are hungry and thirsty,
Those who are naked and in need of clothes,
Those who are suffering through physical or mental pain,
Those crushed by military powers,
Those abandoned by their communities.***

At the Cross (Forgiven) – Luke 23:34, Mark 15:33-37 -
Readers: Graham D., Zac K., Lorna A., Lois W.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Congregational Hymn – God is Forgiveness (lyrics below)

**God is forgiveness
Dare to forgive and God will be with you
God is forgiveness, Love and do not fear**

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you asked the Father to forgive those who crucified you. In your anguish, we understand why you may not have been able to offer forgiveness to them directly. Instead, you asked the Father to forgive them. Can it be that the Father has forgiven us too, despite our betrayals and our complicity in the violence of our world? If we are forgiven, surely God calls us to change and to forgive others who have sinned against us.

***God, help us live as forgiven people.
Help us to forgive and to love, not to fear.
So that ours might be a world without crosses.***

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.



Flame of the Christ Candle is extinguished (1 MIN SILENCE)

Preparing Jesus' Body for Burial With Nicodemus
(Awaiting new birth) - John 19:38-42 – Readers: Graham D.

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus...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.

Prayer

God who sent the light to shine in the darkness, we join Nicodemus in holding vigil with the body of your Son Jesus, the Light of the world whose light has been extinguished. We have seen you lifted up; God's love given to the world. Not long ago, you told Nicodemus about a new birth from above. Can it be that the Spirit can give life and light to that which has been given over to death and darkness? Can it be that the deeds of evil that have led to your death might be the occasion of your rescue for us and for the salvation of the world?



***Lord Jesus,
We want to believe, but the world is still dark. Help our unbelief.
That we might not perish but, with you, have eternal life. AMEN***

Congregational Hymn – VT #329 Were You There (verses 1-5)

Departing in Silence

KYRIE 7

Musical score for Kyrie 7, featuring vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The score is written in 2/2 time and B-flat major. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son, Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son." The piano accompaniment consists of two staves, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line. The score is divided into two systems, with the second system continuing the vocal line and piano accompaniment.

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