

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7, 2023

7 pm

*A service that progresses
from light to darkness.*

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE SEVEN CANDLES

Tom DiGiovanni

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 22:1-2, 7-8, 11)

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads, saying:

“Commit your cause to the LORD; let God deliver - let the LORD rescue the one in Whom God delights!”

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

*SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 23:1-5, 18-24

Lisa Kolterjahn, Lay Reader, EGB, EJS, Congregation (Crowd)

Narrator: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

Crowd: **“We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”**

Narrator: Then Pilate asked him,

Pilate: “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus: “You say so.”

Narrator: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

Pilate: “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.”

Narrator: But they were insistent and said,

Crowd: **“He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”**

Narrator: Then they all shouted out together,

Crowd: **“Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”**

Narrator: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

Crowd: **“Crucify, crucify him!”**

Narrator: A third time he said to them,

Pilate: “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”

Narrator: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So, Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.

First candle is extinguished

*OPENING HYMN

“O, How He Loves You and Me”

2108

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 23:32-33, 39-43

Lay Reader, PMB, EGB, EJS

Narrator: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on

his right and one on his left. One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

Criminal 1: "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

Narrator: But the other rebuked him, saying,

Criminal 2: "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

Narrator: Then he said,

Criminal 2: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Second candle is extinguished

TAIZE HYMN

"Jesus, Remember Me"

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 23:44-45

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Agnus Dei"

- Rollo Dilworth

Third candle is extinguished

SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 15:33-34

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?"

SILENCE

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Echoes of Golgotha"

- Frombach/Drennan
Bruce Gaston, violin

Fourth candle is extinguished

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 23:46-47

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

SILENCE

MUSIC

Tom DiGiovanni

Fifth candle is extinguished

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 23:48-49

And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

HYMN

“Were You There?”

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Sixth candle is extinguished
(darkness deepens)

LONG SILENCE

Seventh candle is extinguished

CHORAL ANTHEM

“I Believe”

- Mark Miller

We depart in silence.