

Good Friday

Service of Stones and Diminishing Light

April 2, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Behold! The life-giving cross, on which was hung the Saviour of the whole world.
O come, let us worship him.

PKC and Songleader move to separate podiums.

On the cross we hear Christ's invitation: "Come unto me all who are weary and burdened with the weight of the world. Take *my* yoke upon you, for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the sin of us all.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

Out of his anguish, we shall see his light; the righteous one, God's Holy Servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall lift our burden, he will carry our sin.

Therefore, he will be given his portion with the great; and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with those who sinned; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for those who turned away.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the sin of us all. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your children, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed; to be given over to the hands of sinners and through his suffering and death on the cross; to carry the weight of our sin and the sin of the whole world. Hold us in your love, draw us to the cross, to forgiveness, to grace, to life, to love, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

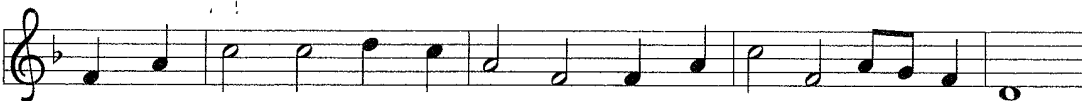
"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" (vs. 1-2, & 3) ELW #712



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.

3. As we gather yet in darkness, grant your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness, dawn upon our quickened sight
Making known the needs and burdens, your compassion bids us bear
Neath the cross we place before you, this the weight of human care.

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane: Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done. [Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]

When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

"A Stone's Throw Away"

A stone's throw away Jesus knelt and prayed,
For the trial yet to come
Father, take this cup away from me,
Not my will, but yours be done
The anguish of a world of pain,
Of sorrow and of fears
The burden borne in heaviness,
The weight of all the world's tears

A stone's throw away, they slept beneath
The heavy veil of grief
For the weight of what they could not bear
Darkness stealing like a thief
Praying for protection,
For the life of those who slept
A stone's throw away, Jesus prayed
A prayer of blood and sweat

The rocky ground, slicing stones
Cutting deep into his knees
The earnest prayer, a heart split wide
A Saviour's wrenching pleas
The shadow of a cross now rising
By the end of day
Scuffling betrayer's footsteps
Now just a stone's throw away

The denial comes, the darkness falls
Love bending to the ground
Christ becomes our sin for us
Our burdens we lay down
The stone is rolled before the tomb
It is the only way
And while we sleep, Christ gives his life
Only a stone's throw away.

QUARTET: "Our Saviour Prayed Alone"

The Stones of Grief and Fear:

Loving Jesus, you carry the weight of the people you love. You are concerned for their sorrows and suffering. Your care for them is deep. For the weight of the world's fear of death, for the burdens of grief and loss and sorrow, for the fear and care for others we love who yet live under the veil of ever-present sadness and foreboding, come alongside us in the darkness and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.

Have mercy on us, O God.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the sin of us all.

Amen

Judas' Betrayal: [Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Peter's Denial: Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" (vs. 1-3) ELW 347



1 Go to dark Geth-se-m-a-a-ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a-dor-ing at his feet,



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit-ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir-a-cle of time, God's own sac-ri-fice com-plete.



turn not from his griefs a-way; learn from Je-sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf-f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin-ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je-sus Christ to die.

The Stones of Betrayal and Denial:

Loving Christ who never turns away, for the burden of guilt, for every time we have denied your life among us, for every time we have denied your life to and for others for whom you came to save, for our turning away in fear, for our turning away in greed, for our hopelessness to believe, for our political agendas and world-views that give priority to the vision and hope of your kingdom come,

Have mercy on us, O God.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the sin of us all.

Amen

Jesus is Arrested: Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

"Ah, Holy Jesus" (vs. 1-3) ELW 349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.

He Claimed to Be the Son of God: But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Jesus is Condemned to Die: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. 9He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

"Ah, Holy Jesus" (vs. 4) ELW 349

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

The Stone of Condemnation:

Forgiving Christ, when the world condemns us or we condemn others, when wrong is done to us or we do wrong to others, when we carry things that are too much to forgive, come alongside us in the darkness and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.

Have mercy on us, O God.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the sin of us all.

People: Amen.

King of the Jews: So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

"Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."
And that is what the soldiers did.

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (vs 1&3) ELW #351



O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

The Stone of Greed:

Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world self-indulgent appetites and ways, of and neglect of human need and suffering. Come alongside us in our injustice and cruelty. Turn us again to you and one another and teach us your justice and peace.

Have mercy on us, O God.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the sin of us all.

Amen.

I Am Thirsty: Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Stone of Need

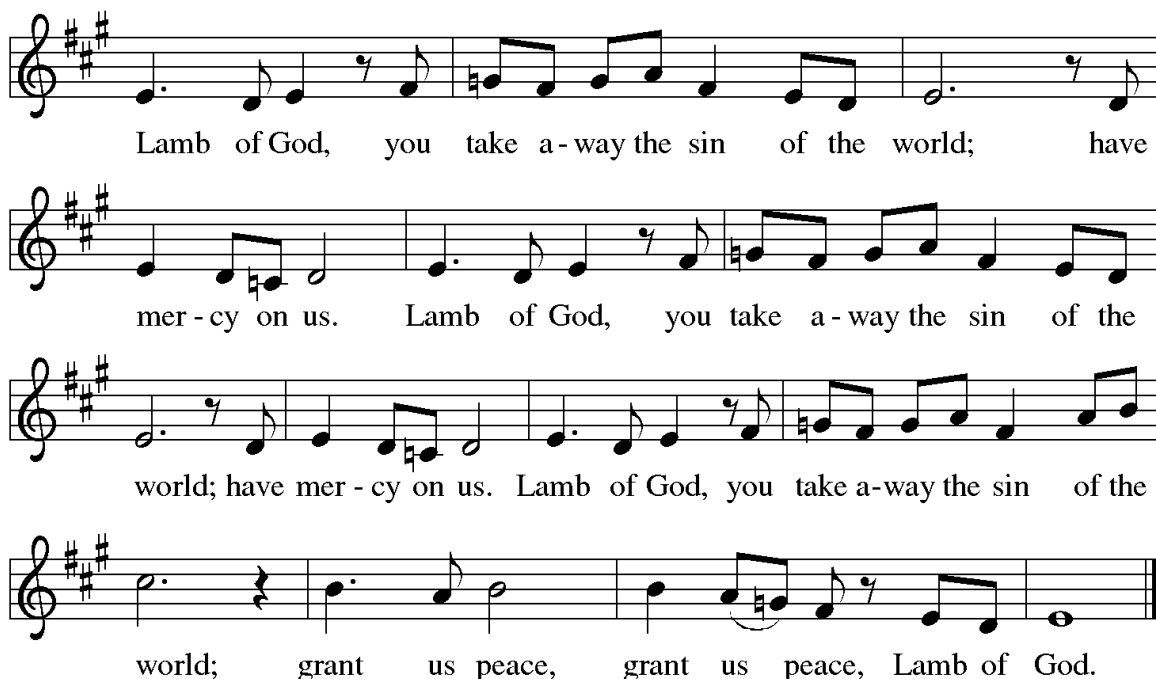
Lord Jesus Christ, in the body of your flesh you have known hunger and thirst. You know our dry and thirsty world, you have lived in the depths of our dry and thirsty souls. Turn us away from the shallows that cannot satisfy. Feed us with your life, give us to drink of you. Come alongside us and quench the thirsting of our souls.

Have mercy on us, O God.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the sin of us all.

Amen.

"Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

The Death of Jesus: Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, 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.

Solo: "Were You There" (vs. 4) ELW 353

The Stone of Death:

Dearest Jesus, even in death you are with us. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we come to our own death, you have been there too. Come alongside us in the darkness and carry us through death to life.

Have mercy on us, O God.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the sin of us all. **Amen.**

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