

# Good Friday Liturgy 2011

Quiet reflection and posture of humble presence

Opening Prayer

The Word

**First Reading:** Isaiah 53:7-9

**Psalm Response: R:** *Let the refining fire of your Love reach the hidden places within open hearts! Forgive us and let the deep regret of our souls rise up as contrite offerings.*

**The Passion according to Matthew 26:1-75; 27:3-61 [R] Glory to you, O God.**  
*[All remain seated. The community will read all parts with an bold "C".]*

Jesus had now finished all he wanted to say publicly in Jerusalem, and he told his disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Human One will be handed over to be crucified." Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

## The Anointing at Bethany

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said,

**C:** *"Why this waste? This ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to those who are poor."*

But Jesus knew this, and so said to them, "Why do you make trouble for the woman? She has done a good thing for me. Those who are poor you have with you always, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever in all the world this good news is proclaimed, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

## Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

**C:** *"What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?"*

They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

*Liturgical Movement - Interlude #1*

## The Passover with the Disciples

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, asking,

**C:** *"Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"*

He said, "Go to a certain person in the city and say, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When evening came, he was at table with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "For truth I tell you, one of you will betray me." They became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

**C:** *"Surely not I, Teacher?"*

Jesus answered, "The one who has dipped a hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Human One, the mortal, will go, as it is written, but woe to the one by whom the Human is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said,

**C:** *"It can't be that I am the one, Rabbi?"*

He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and having said the blessing, he broke it, gave it to the disciples. "Take this, eat," he said, "this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." I tell you, I will never again drink this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in the kin-dom of my loving God." When they had sung the psalms, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

## Peter's Denial Foretold

Then Jesus said to them, "You will fall away from me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him,

**C:** *"Though all will fall away from you, I will never fall away."*

Jesus said to him, "In truth I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Peter said to him,

**C: "Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you."**

And so said all the disciples.

### **Jesus Prays in Gethsemane**

Jesus then went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two Zebedee siblings, and began to be sad and anguished. Then he said to them, "My heart is nearly broken with grief, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My dear God, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he returned to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "So, you could not stay awake with me, even one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again Jesus went away for the second time and prayed, "Loving God, if this cup cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he went back and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour has come, and the Human One is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go! See, the one who is to hand me over is near."

### **The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

**C: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."**

At once he came up to Jesus and said,

**C: "Greetings, Rabbi!"**

and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of the followers of Jesus grasped and drew a sword, and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off the servant's ear. Jesus then said, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my God, who would as soon send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to seize me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all

this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

### *Liturgical Movement - Interlude #2*

### **Jesus before the High Priest**

Jesus was arrested and taken to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

**C: "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days'."**

The high priest rose and addressed Jesus, "Have you no answer to the accusations that these witnesses bring against you? What do you say about them?"

But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the One born of God?"

Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the One born of a Human seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered,

**C: "He deserves death."**

### **Peter's Denial of Jesus**

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A young servant woman came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But Peter denied it before all of them, saying,

**C: "I do not know what you are talking about."**

When he went out to the porch, another young servant woman saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This one was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it with an oath,

**C: "I do not know the man."**

After a little while the bystanders approached him and said, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

**C: "I do not know the man!"**

At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock

crows, you will deny me three times.” And Peter went out and wept bitterly.

### **The Suicide of Judas**

When Judas, who betrayed Jesus, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

**C: “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”**

But they said, “What’s that to us? That’s your concern.” Throwing down the pieces of silver in the Temple, Judas departed; and he went and hanged himself.

#### *Liturgical Movement - Interlude #3*

But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.”

After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “*And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as our God commanded me.*”

### **Pilate Questions Jesus**

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “So, you are the King of the Judeans?” Jesus said, “Your words, not mine.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” But Jesus gave no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

### **Barabbas or Jesus?**

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after the crowd had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him word, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they shouted,

**C: “Barabbas.”**

Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said,

**C: “Let him be crucified!”**

Then he asked, “Why, what harm has he done?” But they shouted all the more,

**C: “Crucify him! Crucify him!”**

### **Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified**

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; it is your concern.” Then the people as a whole answered,

**C: “His blood be on us and on our children!”**

So Pilate released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### **The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

**C: “Hail, King of the Judeans!”**

They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry the cross.

#### *Liturgical Movement - Interlude #4*

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Judeans.”

Then two bandits were crucified with Jesus, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

**C: “So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself, if you are the perfect Human, and come down from the cross.”**

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "This one saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the "King" of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and then we will believe. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if it is God's will; for he said, "I am born of God." Even the bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

### **The Death of Jesus**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**C: "This man is calling for Elijah."**

At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

**C: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."**

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After the resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and other officials who were keeping watch over Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

**C: "Truly this one was born of God!"**

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the two Zebedee siblings.

### **The Burial of Jesus**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

### **The Guard at the Tomb**

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Governor, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise

again.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people,

**C: 'He has been raised from the dead'**

and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you want." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Passion of Our God.

**[R] Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.**

### **Homily**

#### **General Intercessions**

#### **Veneration of the Cross**

Presider: This is the wood of the cross.

All: ***Come, let us worship.***

*[Repeated 3 times]*

*[All are invited to come forward to venerate the cross at the foot of the altar.]*

**Veneration Chant: "Where time rests in the stillness of eternity, I will repose in silence."**

#### **The Prayer of Jesus**

*Author Unknown*

***Loving God, in whom is heaven. May Your name be honored everywhere. May Your kin-dom come. May the desire of Your heart for the world be done, in us, by us and through us. Give us the bread we need for each day. Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others. Keep us from all anxiety and fear. For You reign in the power that comes from love which is Your glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

#### **Communion Rite**

All:

***Lamb of God, You guide us toward faith, love, freedom, and justice.***

***Lamb of God, You know our hearts long to be Your compassion to others.***

***Lamb of God, You are with us in life, in death, and in resurrection to new life.***

Presider:

The assembly is invited to join hands and be in silent communion for our community and for the world.

*[silence]*

**Chant:** *"Where time rests in the stillness of eternity, I will repose in silence."*

***All depart in silence – there is no closing song.***

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