



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Good Friday

April 2, 2021

7pm

PRELUDE

“Christ Lag in Todesbanden”
(“In Death’s Strong Grasp the Savior Lay”)
Linda Dover, organ

J.S. Bach

OPENING WORDS

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.

That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Let us pray.

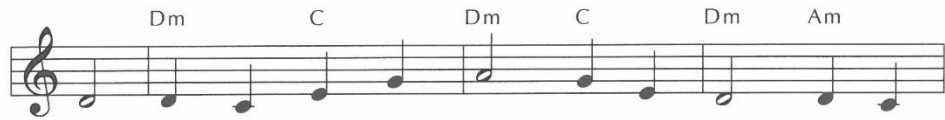
Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross
so that he might draw the whole world to himself.
Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation,
may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 215

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

WONDROUS LOVE

What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

¹³ Look, my servant will succeed.

He will be exalted and lifted very high.

¹⁴ Just as many were appalled by you,
he too appeared disfigured, inhuman,
his appearance unlike that of mortals.

¹⁵ But he will astonish many nations.
Kings will be silenced because of him,
because they will see what they haven't seen before;
what they haven't heard before, they will ponder.

53 Who can believe what we have heard,
and for whose sake has the Lord's arm been revealed?

² He grew up like a young plant before us,
like a root from dry ground.

He possessed no splendid form for us to see,
no desirable appearance.

³ He was despised and avoided by others;
a man who suffered, who knew sickness well.
Like someone from whom people hid their faces,
he was despised, and we didn't think about him.

⁴ It was certainly our sickness that he carried,
and our sufferings that he bore,
but we thought him afflicted,
struck down by God and tormented.

⁵ He was pierced because of our rebellions
and crushed because of our crimes.
He bore the punishment that made us whole;
by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ Like sheep we had all wandered away,
each going its own way,
but the Lord let fall on him all our crimes.

⁷ He was oppressed and tormented,
but didn't open his mouth.

Like a lamb being brought to slaughter,
like a ewe silent before her shearers,
he didn't open his mouth.

⁸ Due to an unjust ruling he was taken away,
and his fate—who will think about it?
He was eliminated from the land of the living,
struck dead because of my people's rebellion.

⁹ His grave was among the wicked,
his tomb with evildoers,
though he had done no violence,
and had spoken nothing false.

¹⁰ But the Lord wanted to crush him
and to make him suffer.

If his life is offered as restitution,
he will see his offspring; he will enjoy long life.
The Lord's plans will come to fruition through him.

¹¹ After his deep anguish he will see light,^[f] and he will be satisfied.
Through his knowledge, the righteous one, my servant,
will make many righteous,
and will bear their guilt.

¹² Therefore, I will give him a share with the great,
and he will divide the spoil with the strong,
in return for exposing his life to death
and being numbered with rebels,
though he carried the sin of many
and pleaded on behalf of those who rebelled.

ANTHEM

“Behold the Lamb of God”

by Craig Courtney

Chancel Singers I — Linda Dover, piano

Rebecca Prater, director

Liz Chandler, Terri Monrad, Sue Trigger, Connie Richards,
Linda Bruns, Gene Wilson, Mitch Trigger, and Joe Hoffman

*Behold the Lamb of God, the Lamb for sinners slain; A perfect sacrifice for all, he died, but lives again.
Behold the Lamb of God, behold his hands, his side. The Son of God, the sinless Lamb, for me was crucified.
He lives let heav'n rejoice, and earth her honors bring to him, the everlasting God, the great, eternal King.
Behold the Lamb of God, behold his hands, his side, the Son of God, the sinless Lamb, for me was crucified.
Oh, strike your harps of gold, ye ransomed host above.
Praise him who bought you with his blood and saved you by his love.
Behold the Lamb of God, behold his hands, his side. The Son of God, the sinless Lamb, for me was crucified.*

PROCLAMATION OF THE PASSION STORY

John 18:1–19:42 (video)

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

THE REPROACHES:

CHRIST'S LAMENT AGAINST HIS FAITHLESS CHURCH

1) O my people, O my Church,
what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you?
I led you forth from the land of Egypt
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

2) I led you through the desert forty years and fed you with manna;
I brought you through times of persecution and of renewal
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven;
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

3) I made you branches of my vineyard
and gave you the water of salvation,

but when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar and gall
and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

4) I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
but you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate.
I brought you to a land of freedom and prosperity,
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

ANTHEM

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

Music by J. Baptist Calkin

Chancel Singers II

arr. Molly Ijames

Barbara Douglas, Kathy Williams, Cindy Schendel, Pam Kelly, Susan Hayden,
Jim Kelly, Ellin Schoenfeld, Mitch Trigger, and Joe Hoffman

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.

Oh who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing, resounding all the day Hosannas to their King:

then "Crucify!" is all their breath and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done to cause this rage and spite?

He made the lame to walk and gave the blind their sight.

What injuries, yet these are why the Lord most high so cruelly dies.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine; never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.

This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days will gladly spend. My song is love unknown.

(Words by Samuel Crossman, written in 1664)

5) I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom,
but you have given me a crown of thorns.

I raised you on high with great power,
but you have hanged me on the cross.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

6) My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,
and washed your feet as a servant,
but you draw the sword to strike in my name
and seek high places in my kingdom.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

7) I accepted the cup of suffering and death for your sakes,
but you scatter and deny and abandon me.
I sent the Spirit of truth to lead you,
but you close your hearts to guidance.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

8) I called you to go and bring forth fruit,
but you cast lots for my clothing.
I prayed that you all may be one,
but you continue to quarrel and divide.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

ANTHEM

“Kyrie Eleison” Words & Music by Dana Mengel
(“Lord, have mercy”)

Chancel Singers III — Karen Kesler, soprano soloist
Karen Kesler, Lauren Bond, Susan Sutherland, Susan Hayden,
David Sutherland, Linda Bruns, Paul Bruns, and Bob Dover

*Holy Son of Man, I kneel here before your cross,
broken and sorrowful by what man’s sin has done. Kyrie eleison, I pray.
Precious Lamb of God, I bow before you now,
so unworthy of your redeeming grace. Kyrie eleison, I pray.
Kneeling here below your cross, all my gain for sure seems lost,
Kyrie eleison, I pray.*

9) I grafted you into the tree of my chosen people Israel,
but you turned on them with persecution and mass murder.
I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants,
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

10) I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters.
I was hungry but you gave me no food,
thirsty but you gave me no drink.
I was a stranger but you did not welcome me,
naked but you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison but you did not visit me.

SENDING MUSIC

“Were You There”
a cappella

Sue & Mitch Trigger

AND THE STRIPPING OF THE SANCTUARY

After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in Jesus’s earthly life. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. As his life was stripped from him, so we strip our sanctuary of the signs of comfort and life to symbolize his suffering and death. The bell toll is rung 33 times in remembrance of the 33 years Jesus lived his earthly life among us.

GOING FORTH IN SILENCE

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Announcements

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES: 9am In-Person Outdoor Service, and 11am Online Service — Join us as we celebrate the resurrection this Sunday! As always this will be a glorious celebration! If you plan to worship with us in person at the 9am service, please bring your own lawn chair and your own Communion bread and juice. In case of rain, the 9am service will be broadcast online via Facebook and Zoom. [Visit this link for more information.](#)

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