

18 April 2025  
Good Friday



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Sierra Vista

*On this day the ministers enter in silence. All then kneel for silent prayer, after which the Presider says:*

Presider: Blessed be our God

People: **Forever and ever. Amen.**

Presider: Let us pray:

All: **Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated for the lessons and Passion readings)*

### **1st Lesson: A Reading from the book of Isaiah (52:13--53:12)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 13 The Lord says, "My servant will succeed in his task; he will be highly honored.  | about him, nothing that would draw us to him.   |
| 14 Many people were shocked when they saw him; he was so disfigured that he hardly looked human.  | 3 We despised him and rejected him; he endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at him—we ignored him as if he were nothing.                                  |
| 15 But now many nations will marvel at him, and kings will be speechless with amazement. They will see and understand something they had never known."                              | 4 "But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. |
| 1 The people reply, "Who would have believed what we now report? Who could have seen the Lord's hand in this?   | 5 But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.          |
| 2 It was the will of the Lord that his servant grow like a plant taking root in dry ground. He had no dignity or beauty to make us take notice of him. There was nothing attractive | 6 All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment  |

- fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.
- 7 “He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word.
- 8 He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people.
- 9 He was placed in a grave with those who are evil, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie.”
- 10 The Lord says, “It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so he will see his descendants; he will live a long life, and through him my purpose will succeed.
- 11 After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain. My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them.
- 12 And so I will give him a place of honor, a place among the great and powerful. He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of evil men. He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord  
 People: Thanks be to God

### **Psalm: 22:1-11 (said aloud in unison)**

- 1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?  
 I have cried desperately for help,  
 but still it does not come.
- 2 During the day I call to you, my God,  
 but you do not answer;  
 I call at night, but get no rest.
- 3 But you are enthroned as the Holy One,  
 the one whom Israel praises.
- 4 Our ancestors put their trust in you;  
 they trusted you, and you saved them.
- 5 They called to you and escaped from danger;  
 they trusted you and were not disappointed.

- 6 But I am no longer a human being; I am a worm,  
despised and scorned by everyone!
- 7 All who see me make fun of me;  
they stick out their tongues and shake their heads.
- 8 “You relied on the Lord,” they say.  
“Why doesn’t he save you?  
If the Lord likes you,  
why doesn’t he help you?”
- 9 It was you who brought me safely through birth,  
and when I was a baby, you kept me safe.
- 10 I have relied on you since the day I was born,  
and you have always been my God.
- 11 Do not stay away from me!  
Trouble is near,  
and there is no one to help.

## **2nd Lesson:**

### **A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews (4:14-16; 5:7-9)**

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**The Passion of Christ:** *The people may be seated while the passion narrative is read aloud. At the verse which mentions the arrival at “Golgotha” all stand as they are able. When Jesus dies, all kneel or sit.*

## **Leader: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am."

Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "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." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so."

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place." When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (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, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "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." 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. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called Golgotha which means "The Skull",

*(pause as all stand)*

they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "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." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

*(please kneel or sit)*

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." 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.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

## **Homily—Rev. Allison Cornell**

### **Veneration of the Cross**

*At this time people are invited to come up to the cross set up before the altar for a time of silent prayer. You may also place a flower on the cross as a symbol of your love to God, of surrendering your burdens and worries to God, of giving yourself into God's care, of releasing your sorrows for God's healing.*

Songs:                   —     #168 O Sacred Head Sore Wounded  
                                      #172 Were you there?  
                                      Doreen Oberg Duet of "No Reason"

**The Solemn Collects:**   BCP p. 277 (*please kneel or sit*)

Presider: Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.



Leader Let us pray for the holy catholic church of Christ throughout the world;  
For its unity in witness and service, For all bishops and other ministers  
and the people whom they serve. For Jennifer and Deborah, our Bishops, and  
all the people of this diocese and synod. For all Christians in this community

**People: That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and  
preserve it in peace.**

*Silence*

Presider: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your  
faithful people is governed and sanctified:

Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all  
members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may  
truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
**Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in  
authority among them;  
For the President of the United States; For the Congress and the Supreme  
Court; For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations  
For all who serve the common good

**People: That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in  
peace and concord.**

*Silence*

Presider: Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace,  
and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the  
earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled  
with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;  
For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed, For the  
sick, the wounded, and the crippled, For those in loneliness, fear, and  
anguish, For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair, For the  
sorrowful and bereaved, For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal  
danger...

**People: That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant  
them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to  
minister to their needs.**

*Silence*

Presider: Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray:  
For all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;  
For those who have never heard the word of salvation,  
For those who have lost their faith,  
For those hardened by sin or indifference,  
For the contemptuous and the scornful.  
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples,  
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others...

**People: That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.**

*Silence*

Presider: Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be reached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader: Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

*Silence*

Presider: O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:

**People:** Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and Sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him, through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Leader:** And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**All:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

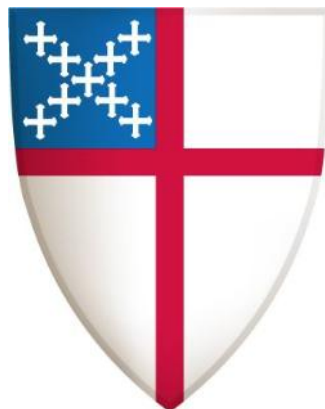
**Presider:** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(The Candle of Presence on the altar is extinguished, and the reserved blessed host is recessed out of the church by the clergy/altar party with congregation following to a hole previously dug and the blessed host is placed in the "grave". The congregation members may cast a handful of dirt in the hole and depart in silence.)*

*Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.*



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### Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check ☐ here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



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|--|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Info Update         | Giving Envelopes | <input type="checkbox"/> Mail News Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last) |                  |   |                          |
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| Adrs: _____                                  |                  | BrthDate _____                            |                          |
| City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____          |                  |   |                          |