

Celebrating the Restoration of the Human Race in the Death of Jesus Christ

LAMENTATION OVER THE DEAD BODY OF CHRIST

Rembrandt (c. 1635)

**Now from thy cheeks has vanished
Their color once so fair;
From thy red lips is banished
The splendor that was there.
Thus thou hast lost thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.
Grim death with cruel rigor
Has robbed thee of thy life.**

Greeting

Everybody is concerned about the economy right now—about a job loss, maybe, or about a shrinking IRA, a poor quarter in sales in your company, or perhaps about how much harder it might get to buy a house. And God cares about our needs in these things. But he also tells us what our biggest need is: *to be reconciled to him, to be restored in a relationship of love with him*. Jesus put it pretty bluntly on one occasion when he asked, **What does it profit a person if he gains the whole world [financially] but loses his own soul?**

As we go through this worship service we need to remember that the bitterness of Christ's death confronts us both with who we are and who God is: all that Christ got in the way of punishment is what we deserve as sons and daughters of guilty Adam; but Christ was punished in our place because God loves us deeply and willed that his Son should come among us as a Second Adam and win for us what the first Adam lost: peace with our Creator, a security that is eternal and not subject to the whims of the market or to human greed, and the restoring of creation's glory.

Tonight as we reflect on Christ's suffering and on the words he spoke from the cross while in deep, physical pain and mental anguish, we can find fresh comfort and courage in the truth that God is love, and that we live by every word that proceeds from his mouth.

The elders at Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church and Old Orchard (Presbyterian) Church warmly welcome you to our fourteenth Good Friday service together. We are different congregations in Webster Groves in different denominations, but we belong to and celebrate one Lord whose work of nailing our guilt to the cross is free for the asking for anyone who is learning that the biggest threat to their security is not financial at all but spiritual: their own self-centered heart. We are glad you are with us tonight and hope our worship lights up for you a bit, how much stronger than human failure is the strength of God's love demonstrated in Jesus.

The "Responses" we will be singing are several chorales from Johann Sebastian Bach's "The Passion of Our Lord According to St. Matthew," composed in 1729. Welcome, in Christ's name, to our worship!

Ron Lutjens, Sr. Pastor Terry Schoenfeld, Sr. Pastor
Old Orchard Church Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church

Joint Good Friday Worship

**Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church & Old Orchard Church
(at Old Orchard Church)**

Friday, April 10, 2009

Greeting

Call to worship

Romans 5:12-15

Reflection

“Scarborough Fair Revisited” Greg Roig (1991)

**Long ago in the Garden of Eden Adam ate from the tree and was stained.
Grasping for the fruit of heaven dust and thorns and desert attained.**

**In these last days a new Adam is born from the dust, the gardener appears.
He plants the seed and weeds and waters using his own blood sweat and tears.**

**One winter’s dawn see a rose is in bloom blazing bush that is not consumed.
With these thorns he pierces our darkness; shadows wane and death itself doomed.**

**Here in the desert an oasis is risen fruit and shade for hunger and thirst.
The tree of life for all who would savor a feast for the last but a fast for the first.**

Justice for Adam

Matthew 26:57-68

Litany

- L1** False witnesses have risen up against me; they rise,
the kings of the earth, against God and against His Christ.
- P** "He is deserving of death!" Lord have mercy on us.
- L2** And the Word was in the beginning with God, and the Word was God.
"I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."
- P** "He has blasphemed! Behold, you have heard the blasphemy!"
- L2** They spit in his face; they clubbed him with their fists, and they slapped him.
Meek Jesus, gentle Jesus. Christ! Thou Son of God!
- L1** Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written,
'I will strike down the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"
- P** Lord have mercy on us. Have mercy.

Response:

Acknowledge me my Keeper;
My Shepherd make me Thine.
Thy fount of love is deeper
Than deepest need of mine.
Thy love so often feeds me
With milk and angels' food.
Thy Spirit still has led me
The way of heavenly good.

Adam's Coronation

Matthew 27:27-31

Litany

- L1** Hail, King of the Jews! Dressed in purple, crowned with a crown, seated with a scepter.
Shall you scorned Jesus, reign over us?
- P** You were despised and rejected by us. We were foolish and slow of heart,
to believe what the prophets had said: that to shame the wise and the strong,
God would accomplish our rescue by your suffering. Not by your skill, but by your pain.
- L2** Crown of sorrows. Crown of blood. Crown of cruel agony. Bitter crown of mockery.
- P** Crown of patience; crown of pity. Crown of sympathy; crown of love.
Blessed be the bleeding King of all things!

Response:

O Thou, with hate surrounded, enduring shame and scorn,
whose sacred head is wounded, and crowned with cruel thorn,
Though praise and adoration be now denied to thee
In Thy humiliation, accept them Lord, from me.

Adam's Punishment

Luke 23:32-39

Litany

- L1** Kings can save themselves; pretenders cannot. Prove yourself, O Jesus.
Now is the chance—everyone is watching. Make your case; use your influence. Show the powers that be, that they underestimated you.
- P** But he would not even open his mouth. He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter. For he loved the praise of God, rather than the cheers of the people.
- L2** You were despised and rejected by man. And there was no one to save you—not even God.
- P** And so we thought you were smitten by God, and afflicted by Him. For would not God come to your defense, if you were Messiah?
- L1** But we did not know that He was the One wounding you—for our sins;
- P** that He was bruising you for our rebellion; that He was weighing you down with our sorrows. But such is your love for us. Thanks be to God!

Response:

O calm, majestic features,
from which will shrink in fear
The world of sinful creatures,
defiled ye now appear.
How pale and faint Thy seeming,
Thine eyes that once were bright,
With power transcendent beaming,
Ah, what hath dulled their light?

My burden in thy passion
Lord, Thou has borne for me;
For it was my transgression
Which brought this woe on thee.
Have mercy I implore thee --
Redeemer, spurn me not!
I cast me down before thee,
Wrath were my rightful lot.

Proclaiming the Word of God

“The Sayings of Jesus From the Cross”

Pastor Terry Schoenfeld, senior pastor, Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church

Song

“I Will Praise Him Still”

Fernando Ortega (1997)

Corporate confession of sin

O Lord Jesus my Savior, I was there when they crucified you.
It was I who killed you—with my words, my neglect, my self-seeking,
my unkindness to others. It is my unbelief,
my refusal to bow under your lordship,
my boredom with the good world you've made;
it is my guilt that drove the nails into your hands and feet.
O Lord forgive me:
For pushing you out to the edge of my life and my love.

I know there was never any sorrow—including my own—
like your sorrow.
Come to my heart Lord Jesus. I give myself to you afresh.
Cover my defenseless head;
Remember your pain on my behalf, and love me still.
O Lord teach me to repent, not despair;
To return to you, and not despise myself.
Then I shall live hopeful,
And my joy will never be stolen. Amen.

Adam's End

Response: (words on cover)

Matthew 27:45-50

Silence before the Lord

We are led out of a time of silence before the Lord by the announcement of our forgiveness in the words of Colossians 1:15-20.

While we sing "Lamb of God" (next page), lights from the candle representing Christ will be carried to each person in the congregation, symbolizing the truth of what David said to God in Psalm 36,

"In your light, we see light."

With our candles lit, we continue our worship by offering God songs of praise.



Song

“Lamb of God”

Twila Paris (1985)

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Song

“Before the Throne of God Above”

Music: Vikki. Cook
Words: Charitie L. de Chenz (1841-1923)

Song

“O To See the Dawn”

Getty/Townend (2005)

**The Lord's Supper:
Celebration of the New Adam's Triumph**

Song of hope

"Alleluia, He is Coming"

Martha Butler (1979)
Arr. Mimi Farra

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-coming,
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-coming down the road.

Refrain: Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia, He is here.
Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia, He is here.

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-weeping,
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-weeping for my sins.

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-dying,
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-dying on the cross.

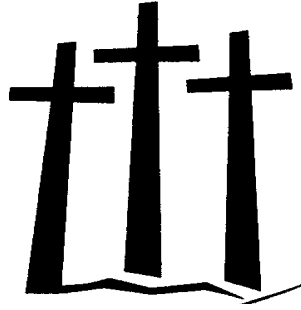
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-rising,
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-rising from the grave.

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Benediction on the People of God

Invitation to Fellowship

Please join us after worship to share food and fellowship together.
Thanks to Old Orchard Church's Hospitality Ministry for organizing this for us.



THE GREAT EXCHANGE

In the crucifixion, the sinless Christ gets what guilty Adam deserves. From the human side, it was a sham trial before the Jewish high court; from God's side, never was more just sentence pronounced upon a man. From the human side, truth was silenced for the sake of political expedience in the judicial hearing before the Roman governor, Pilate; from God's side, it was the triumph of truth: finally it was laid open and bare to the world that Adam and all his children deserved to die for their offenses against the Divine Glory and their own glory. From the human side, the scene of the crucifixion was an outrage: with incredible perversity a good man was being killed; from God's side, High Justice was being served in the death of this man as he became the object of divine wrath—not because he deserved it, but because we did.

Who could have known, who could have understood, who could have believed that this great, mysterious, eternal, divine transaction of Justice and Mercy was effected through ordinary human courts and councils with their clerks and their bailiffs, their petty titles and their paperwork? It had to be revealed from heaven, and so it was.

—Anonymous

