

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

www.stpaulspgh.org

Good Friday
Friday, April 7, 2023 • 12:00pm
Officiating: The Rev. Erin Morey
Preaching: The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III

God loves you, no exceptions.

You are always welcome at God's table at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's is a spiritual home and welcoming community to people of all ages, generations, educational backgrounds, financial means, abilities and disabilities, races, ethnicities, and nationalities, without regard to sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity/expression, and with many different family and religious backgrounds. Some of us are lifelong Episcopalians; some were raised in other Protestant denominations or in the Roman Catholic Church; some are new to the Christian faith; some are not sure what they believe. There is a place here for you.

Give to St. Paul's

The Offering helps to sustain the life and work of St. Paul's. For electronic giving, use this QR code. You can also text **(412) 923-0101** to give or place an offering in the baskets at the entrances.



Thank you!

A Note Toward Repentance

As we gather beneath the Cross of Jesus this Good Friday, our Jewish neighbors are currently commemorating God's liberation of their people from slavery in Egypt as told in our common scripture: Shemot, the book of Exodus. The feast of Pesach, Passover, began at sundown on April 5 and ends on April 13.

Three of the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – note that Jesus celebrated Passover with his followers before he died. Jesus's – our God's – human cultural and religious heritage was Judaism.

As we hear John's Passion narrative read, we are all too aware of the ways in which its central event and symbol have been conscripted against our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters. The cross, that symbol intended to proclaim love's victory over violence, has all too often fallen painfully short of its ideal, still evoking memories of the murderous Crusades – and in more recent times, the haunting violence suffered by Jews at the hands of Christians during Holy Week.

We know that our church home of St. Paul's left its original home in the Hill District of the City of Pittsburgh in response to “changing demographics (beginning to) affect the parish as Jewish, and later Black, families moved into the area.” We know that antisemitic violence and hate is on the rise in the United States and around the world.

And we know that over the past several years, antisemitic symbols have appeared in the community of Mt. Lebanon.

The Gospel text for today has given license and fuel to untold acts of antisemitism, which upon even the slightest reflection bids the church to cast ourselves in repentance upon Jesus, our Jewish savior, and to rid ourselves and our worship, this day, of any note of contempt for our Jewish brothers and sisters. To worship our Lord in Spirit and in truth demands nothing less. And so, we today draw near the cross of the Crucified – pleading again for his mercy, for us, and for the church in every age.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prelude Music: Tranquillo, ma con moto, from *Six Short Pieces*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Welcome and Greetings

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.
Celebrant Let us pray.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson
Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22
Read together

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?
2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.
3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.
7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
8 “He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”
9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.
10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.
11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.
12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
14 I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
16 Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.
17 They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.
18 Be not far away, O LORD; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
19 Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.
20 Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.
24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 10:16-25

The Holy Spirit testifies saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel
John 18:1-19:42

The Sermon
The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III

The Solemn Collects

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.

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 Ketlen, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese
For all Christians in this community
For those awaiting to be baptized

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

Silence

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.*

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Joseph, 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

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

Silence

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.*

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

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

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.*

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

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

Silence

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 preached 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.*

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

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: 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.*

Veneration of the Cross

The congregation is invited to take the paper and pencils provided and write down special prayers, concerns, thanksgivings, or anything troubling them, and nail it to the cross. The papers will be burned at the Easter Vigil in the kindling of the new fire.

Music During the Veneration of the Cross: Choir and Soloist

Recitative: He that dwelleth in Heav'n shall laugh them to scorn, from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel (1685-1750)

Air: Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron

Steven Cosnek, Tenor

Adoraumus te, Christe, from *Seven Last Words*

Theodore Duboise (1837-1924)

*We adore you, Christ,
And praise you;
Because on your holy cross
You have redeemed the world
And you have suffered for us.*

*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish,
But have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world,
But that the world through Him might be saved.*

Celebrant

We offer before you these prayers of our heart and souls hung here today. May they be an offering to you, O God, this day. Let us pray.

O God of peace, *who hast* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *thy* Spirit lift us, we pray *thee*, to *thy* presence, where we may be still and know that *thou art* God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

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.*

Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

All are welcome to receive communion.

Communion Music: Pie Jesu, from *Requiem*
Michele Baum, Soprano

Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

*Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them rest.
Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them eternal rest.*

Concluding Collect

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 sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Remember St. Paul's in Your Will
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Visit www.stpaulspgh.org/endowment-fund**

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*In the event of a pastoral emergency such as serious illness, injury, or death, please call.
A clergy person will either answer or call you as soon as possible.*

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St. Paul's
newsletter!**





The Good Friday Offering

תודה • شكرًا • Thank you

In any language, the phrase “thank you” means the same thing: an expression of gratitude for an action that has made a difference. As we celebrate the Good Friday Offering this year, gratitude is on the lips and in the hearts of many people whose lives have been changed because of your generosity.

The Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East recognizes the importance of presence—of following our Lord’s model of unconditionally loving people first. With your gifts, the Good Friday Offering has helped fund the following:

- **The Mission to Seafarers in the United Arab Emirates**, where ships are loaded not only with goods but also sailors and other workers who labor for long hours thousands of miles from home.
- **The Arab Episcopal School in Irbid, Jordan**, which provides a strong educational program for blind students.
- **St. Christopher’s Cathedral in Bahrain**, which focuses on providing food and other care for migrant workers who have lost their jobs and cannot get a flight back to their home countries.

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- **Arab Ahli Hospital in Gaza**, a ministry that works tirelessly, despite shortages of medical disposables, medicine, fuel for electrical generators, and food assistance for the poor.
- **And many more important ministries across the region.**

Thank you for the difference you are making through the Good Friday Offering in the lives of a wide diversity of people throughout Jerusalem and the Middle East. “Shukran,” “today,” thank you, for helping us and our worldwide ministry partners become a church that looks and acts like Jesus.

Please make a gift to the Good Friday Offering in one of the following ways:

- Scan the QR code here:



- Give securely online at iam.cc/goodfridayoffering
- To give via phone or for gifts of stock call (800) 334-7626 x6002
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P.O. Box 958983
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Make your check payable to: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society with “Good Friday Offering” in the memo field. Thank you.

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