

New Hope Lutheran Church

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April 2, 2021
Good Friday

Coming Events

All services have been cancelled until April 18, 2021 due to COVID-19.

Apr 4 10:00am Bilingual Easter Service **Zoom**
Apr 6 1:00pm Zoom Raamatupiiri

Apr 18 10:00am Messu † **Voima Hall**
1:00pm Annual Meeting
Regent St, Voima Hall & Zoom
2:00pm Worship Service **Regent St**

In our prayers Fred, Esme, Martha.

Prayer of the day

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn O Sacred head Now Wounded (351)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5hjdz4xZF4>

Opening Lesson Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

¹³ See, my servant will act wisely^[a]; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. ¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him^[b]— his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness— ¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations,^[c] and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

^{53:1} Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression^[d] and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.^[e] ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though he Lord makes^[f] his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life^[g] and be satisfied^[h]; by his knowledge^[i] my righteous servant

will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,^[j] and he will divide the spoils with the strong,^[k] because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Lesson

John 18:1 – 11

¹ When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. ⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" ⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."^[a] ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Prayer

Forgive us, patient God, we are so quick to strike out; like Peter, ready to take offence, trigger-happy. We may think we're in the right, but to defend ourselves – or simply to make our point – we hurt others. Often, it's sharp words, not swords. But that's never your way, not as Jesus lived it. Peter thought he should defend his friend. But Jesus told him: 'Put away your sword. This is the cup God has given me. Shall I not drink it?' On that night, in dark Gethsemane, Jesus took the cup of obedience to God's will, of non-violence, of suffering, for our sakes. Amen

LESSON John 18:12-14, 19-24

¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” ²² When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. ²³ “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Prayer

Jesus, you didn't go behind people's backs; you didn't gossip, you didn't mutter in corners. You spoke out for all to hear. You taught what you believed – and you lived it: God's inclusive love, that saves sinners, learns from children and turns the world upside down. The people in power found that too dangerous. They arrested you and hit you in the face. They were face to face with God's love – and they didn't recognise it. Help us to hear your voice and see your face in those around us. Amen

LESSON John 18:15–18, 25–27

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, ¹⁶ but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ “You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.” ¹⁸ It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.” ²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn't I see you with him in the garden?” ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Prayer

Forgive us, God – we call ourselves your friends but we keep on letting you down. Sometimes we're afraid of what people think, even ashamed to be called Christians. Peter denied you – and the cock crowed three times. We imagine his shock and his shame when he came to his senses. And we pray that even when we are afraid, we will keep faith. Amen

LESSON John 18:28 – 40

²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” ³⁰ “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” ³¹ Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. ³² This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. ³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” ³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” ³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” ³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” ³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” ³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the

Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?” ⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

Prayer

What is truth Lord? Jesus came to witness to the truth. What is truth? The truth was in Jesus, and for some that truth was hard to take. What is truth? God, help us to keep asking, to keep open minds so that the truth of your love for each one of us can enter in. Amen

LESSON John 19:1 – 16a

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face. ⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” ⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” ⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹ and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” ¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” ¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. ¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your

king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. ¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Prayer

God help us: it’s so easy to go with the crowd, not to stand out, to say what everyone says: ‘We want Barabbas ...’ ‘We have no king but Caesar ...’ ‘Crucify!’ We blame those people in a crowd in Jerusalem 2000 years ago. But if we had been there – wouldn’t we have done the same? Save us from our selfish desires. Amen.

LESSON John 19:16b – 22

^{16b} So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

Prayer

Pilate was a powerful ruler – and yet he gave in to political arguments and a mob who shouted for blood. Pilate was a weak man – and yet he got one thing right: he wrote that Jesus was a king. A king with no power at all. A man discarded, on the town rubbish tip, dying like a criminal on a shameful cross. And yet here was a man filled with the power of God to change the world. Come, Jesus, change us. Come Jesus, reign in our hearts. Amen

LESSON John 19:23 – 24

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴ “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

“They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.”^[a] So this is what the soldiers did.

Prayer

O God, your Gospel is full of signs. The seamless robe – work of human hands – which the soldiers couldn’t tear (so they gambled for it instead). Seamless, one piece, it reminds us of the way we belong together, with each other and with believers down the centuries. Each connection we make brings us nearer to you.

We know that Jesus was a carpenter who died on a wooden cross – the work of human hands – and so we pray:

Christ the Master Carpenter, who at the last, through wood and nails, shaped our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand. We ask it for your own name’s sake. Amen¹

LESSON John 19:25 - 27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman,^[a] here is your son,” ²⁷ and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Prayer

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even to the death, death on the cross. Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him a name which is above all names. May we also become more obedient to your will and your word dearest savior. Amen

LESSON John 19:28 - 30

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Prayer

Living Lord, living Word, living Water, we know that in many places in our world people are thirsty. They suffer from drought; they walk miles to collect water; what little water they have is polluted and makes them sick. Forgive us when we take plentiful clean water for granted. May we never waste it – and may we find ways to give practical help to those without. But also remind us, God, that in Jesus you shared our human lives – and our suffering. You knew what it was to be weary, in pain and overwhelmed with thirst. You understand our deepest need. Thank you, thank you for being there for us. Amen

LESSON John 19:31 – 37

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,”^[a] ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”^[a]

Prayer

Compassionate God, as we remember Jesus, whose love for humanity brought him to the cross, we remember the world for which he died.

In the face of a world pandemic we bring to you the world and its people and pray for relief and an end to suffering and death.

In the face of climate change, we bring to you the damage done to wildlife and countryside, to lands and peoples. We pray for forgiveness and the will to work for change to live lives that are sustainable and not damaging

In the face of conflict, we pray for peace, stability and a chance to rebuild lives. We pray for the cooperation and good will of nations.

In the face of the disparities between people and their lives and opportunities, we pray for all refugees and those who are homeless.

We pray for children who are vulnerable or exploited, for all those who suffer from mental health problems, for those in debt, those who are hungry, those who are in prison.

And we remember those we know who are suffering now, under the impact of the coronavirus, those who are sick and those who are grieving. We pray for those who tend them.

We believe in a mystery: just as Jesus shared our mortality and pain as he died on the cross, so you are with those who suffer now, and your wounded hands stretch out with healing and hope. Thank you, God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

LESSON John 19:38 - 42

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Hymn Were You There (353)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=Y4mcJi390ng>

Blessing

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.'

So now, as we stand by the cross, may God – who, in Jesus, shared human life and death – comfort and bless each one of us.

May we know that whatever we have done, we are forgiven; whatever is happening in our lives, God is with us; whoever we are, God loves us. Go, and live in the hope of resurrection, now and always. Amen

Portions of this service from: [A Good Friday Liturgy – Rev Olwen Woolcock \(kettonandtinwell.uk\)](#)