

The Good Thief

A cross is a strange place for making friends—
There isn't a great deal of time—
And strange, this desire to make amends
At the end of a life of crime.
But he liked this carpenter by his side,
Who tough of himself as king,
So he who had stolen, murdered and lied,
Determined to do one kind thing.

'Remember me, Lord, when your Kingdom is here,'
He thought him deluded, but nice.
Strange how the pain went, and even the fear,
With that promise of paradise.
The thief smiled 'I'll see you later,' he said.
He'd never before felt so fine.
'If you could remember to bring the bread,
I'm sure I can manage the wine.'

Peter De Rosa (B. 1932)

Good
Friday



APRIL 14, 2017

6:30 P.M.

GATHER IN SILENCE

(Please be sure all cell phones are silenced during the service this evening.)

Christ has not only spoken to us by his life, but has also spoken for us by his death. ~ Soren Kierkegaard

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us gather this night in the shadow of the cross.

All: Here we look again at the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.

One: Come, with fear and trembling to the darkest place where God seemed to have abandoned Jesus

All: Here let us be comforted in knowing that God never leaves us but walks with us through the dark valleys.

One: Who would have guessed that the depth, breadth and height of God's love would be demonstrated in the arms of His Son outstretched on a cross.

All: In the shadow of the cross, we are humbled by the love from which we can never be separated, not even by death itself.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 27:11-14 [N.T. p. 32]

The Sound of Silence

SCRIPTURE Matthew 27:27-31 [N.T. p. 32]

The Sound of Mockery

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" [98]

SCRIPTURE Matthew 27:45-50 [N.T. p. 33]

The Sound of Crying

READING

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

One: God of Passion, on this day of betrayal and death
All: We remember those times we have been part of the crowd and failed to be faithful to You.

One: God of faithfulness, on this day of fear and denial
All: We confess that we have denied Jesus out of fear for our own safety and out of concern for our own status

One: God of the constant presence, on this day of despair and loss
All: We confess we have wandered from You and then complained that You have abandoned us.

One: God of the cross, on this day of crucifixion, we confess we have fallen short, and failed You.
All: Even in the face of betrayal and rebellion, even in the face of death and denial, even in the face of fear and despair, God's grace knows no bounds.

One: Hear this good news on this Good Friday, we are forgiven, we are called back into relationship with God and we are promised that God will never leave us nor forsake us. This is the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" [100]

BENEDICTION