

Wandering Heart

*"Prone to leave
the God I love"*

GOOD
FRIDAY
2024

But he denied it.
"Woman, I don't know him," he said.
(LUKE 22:57)

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa
Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr
www.immanuelfamily.com
in person | live stream
March 29, 2024 6:30pm



THE NEXT LINE Poem by Rev. Sarah Speed

There are some truths that are like the sun,
If you look at them too long they may burn you.
You may never see the same again.
And yet, nothing can grow without the sun.
So we summon our courage and speak the truth of our lives.
We sing, prone to leave the God I love.
We let the honesty of those words crack our hearts in two.
We admit it to our fight—or—flight, boomerang nature,
And before the grief even begins to pass, God is there.
God is turning toward us, closing the distance,
Inviting us to sing the next line of the song.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

P: Our worship service today is a different take on the Stations of the Cross. Together, we will journey through Jesus' final moments through the eyes of his disciple, Peter. In Peter, we see a little of all of us—he is devout and resolute, zealous, and rash, and even fearful and flawed. If any of us can locate ourselves in the crucifixion story, it is likely we can see ourselves in Peter. Through Peter's experience, we will consider our own. We will look closely at the events of Good Friday to help us honestly assess who we are. As Jesus tells Peter the truth about himself, we will consider the truth about ourselves.

James Baldwin once said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." ² Let us journey together through this difficult day, trusting in God's power and willingness to bind our wandering hearts to God's own self.

PRAYER

C: Holy God, as we journey through this familiar story, help us to understand it anew. Show us, O God, where we find ourselves in the narrative, and move us toward a more just and compassionate future. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "**Were You There**"

#353 ELW

STATION 1: (Peter resists then receives the foot washing)

READING: John 13:1-20

R1: Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

C: He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

R2: Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

C: Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."

R2: Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

C: Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

R2: Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

R3: After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, ‘The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”

P: We have heard the words of scripture. Let us now use our holy imaginations to read between the words and consider how Peter might have felt in these moments.

C: This feels . . . strange. What does Jesus mean by all this? What does he mean by saying that not all of us are clean? He washed our feet, which was . . . strange. But I trust my teacher. I've given up everything to follow him. Is that not love? His words seem . . . strange. What does he know? What is he not saying?

ACTIVITY

HYMN: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

#338 (vs. 1,2)

(EXTINGUISH CANDLE)

STATION 2: (Jesus foretells Peter's denials)

READING: John 13:21-38

R1: After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him;

C: Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So, while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

R1: Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.”

C: Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.

R1: Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

R2: When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

C: Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?"

R3: Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward."

C: Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

R3: Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times."

ACTIVITY

HYMN: "**Stay with Me**"
(*EXTINGUISH CANDLE*)

#348 (3x's)

STATION 3: (Peter draws his sword)

READING: John 18:1-11

R1: After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

R2: So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"

C: They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."

R2: Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground.

R3: Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"

C: And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

R3: Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."

C: Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

R3: Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

C: Whisper Lord’s Prayer

HYMN: “**Go to Dark Gethsemane**”

#347 (vs. 1-3)

(EXTINGUISH CANDLE)

STATION 4: (Jesus is arrested and Peter denies Christ)

READING: John 18:12-18

R1: So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

R2: Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So, the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in.

C: The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.”

R3: Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

P: Please join me in prayer: **Merciful God, we confess that, too often, we’ve been inactive bystanders in the face of someone else’s victimization. Forgive us for choosing self-preservation over justice. Amen**

HYMN: “**When I Survey the Wonderous Cross**”

#803 (vs. 1,3)

(EXTINGUISH CANDLE)

STATION 5: (Peter denies Christ again and again)

READING: John 18:19-40

R1: Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.”

C: When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?”

R1: Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself.

C: They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

R2: Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So, Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

C: They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

R2: Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."

C: The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death."

R2: (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

C: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

R2: Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

C: Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?"

R3: Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

C: Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

R3: After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

C: They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!"

R3: Now Barabbas was a bandit.

ACTIVITY

HYMN: "Ah, Holy Jesus"
(EXTINGUISH CANDLE)

#349

STATION 6: (Jesus is Crucified)

READING: John 19:1-30

R1: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.

C: They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

R1: Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So, Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

C: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

R1: Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him."

C: The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

R1: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

R2: Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him,

C: but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

R2: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!"

C: They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"

R2: Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

C: The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."

R2: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

R3: Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

C: Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.' "

R3: Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did.

R2: Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

R1: After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

C: When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P: When you know the world is grieving and you are partly responsible, what words of solace can you offer? When you could have done something— anything— and you did nothing, what then can you do?

C: The earth is shaken, and so am I. But do I deserve to grieve? Have I brought this on myself? Have I brought this on him? On us? I have not earned these tears. I do not deserve this catharsis. But what else can I do?

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

#351 (vs. 1-3)

(EXTINGUISH CANDLE)

STATION 7: (Jesus is Buried)

READING: John 19:31-42

Depart in silence

† † † † † †

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Worship Participants:

Piano/Organ: Karen Post; Song Leaders: Scott Bertelsen, Steve Olmstead; Sound/Video: Geno Lopes

EASTER SCHEDULE: 7:30am SUNRISE EASTER WORSHIP, communion
8-9am EASTER BREAKFAST, HS Youth hosting (freewill for Youth Gathering)
9:15am EASTER WORSHIP, communion, Choirs

We won't be passing the offering plate tonight, but your gifts may be left in the offering plate on the guest cart in the narthex. Thank you for your gifts.