

WORSHIP SERVICE
March 28, 2024
Maundy Thursday – The Beautiful Rejection

Prelude

Welcome

Isaiah 42:1-4 (Reader 1)

Song: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Lift Up Your Hearts #56 vs 1-2

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Isaiah 53:1-6 (Reader 2)

Song: “Man of Sorrows, What a Name”

Lift Up Your Hearts #170 (vs 1-3)

Man of sorrows what a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood,
sealed my pardon with his blood:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
Guilty, helpless, lost were we;
blameless Lamb of God was he,
sacrificed to set us free:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Prayer for Illumination: (Pastor)

Our Lord Jesus, as we draw near to you and your sufferings this evening, we pray that your Holy Spirit would draw near to us. In the growing darkness of your rejection, suffering and death, illuminate our minds with knowledge and our hearts with love for you. In your name we pray, amen.

Herod attempts to kill Jesus: (Reader 3)

Matthew 2:7-16 (Reader 3)

Jesus was rejected by those he came to save: (Reader 1)

John 6:67-71 (Reader 1)

Matthew 26:14-16 (Reader 2)

Song: "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended"

Lift Up Your Hearts #172 (vs 1-2)

Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended, that mortal judgment has on you descended? By foes derided, by your own rejected, O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you? It is my treason, Lord that has undone you. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you; I crucified you.

Bible reading: Matthew 26:17-25 (Pastor)

Meditation

Service of Holy Communion:

[The congregation is invited to come to the front and form 2 concentric circles around the communion table for this part of the service. For those who prefer to stay seated, an elder will bring the elements to you if you would like to receive them.]

Song: "Nearer, Still Nearer" *Lift Up Your Hearts #659 (vs 1-2)*

[As you come forward, we'll sing the first 2 verses]

Nearer, still nearer, close to thy heart, draw me, my Savior, so precious thou art. Fold me, O fold me close to thy breast; shelter me safe in that haven of rest, shelter me save in that haven of rest.

Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring, naught as an offering to Jesus, my King – only my sinful, now contrite heart; grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart, grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart.

Prayer of confession (in unison):

Lord, we come to you once again. We lay every sin all at your nail-scarred feet. And we know you take them to the cross, and they are gone, paid for, and remembered no more. Please accept our thanks, and our praise, as we come to your table to partake once again of your death for our sins, and resurrection to assure us of eternal life. Our hope is in you alone. Amen.

The institution: Matthew 26:26-29 (Pastor)

Prayer of Consecration (In Unison):

Our Father, may this bread and cup be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we be united with Christ and remain strong in our faith, our hope, and our love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

The Invitation (Pastor)

Song: "Nearer, Still Nearer" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #659 (3-4)

[While the trays of bread and juice are being passed around the circle by the elders, the congregation will sing the last 2 verses]

Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be thine, sin with its follies I gladly resign, all of its pleasures, pomp and its pride; give me but Jesus my Lord crucified, give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified.

Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last, till safe in glory my anchor is cast; through endless ages, ever to be nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee, nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee.

Prayer of Entrusting (in unison):

Thank you, Jesus, for the length and the breadth, the height and the depth of your love for us. Our minds may not be able to grasp your unfathomable love, but surely our hearts do hold it dearly. Amen.

[The congregation may return to their seats]

The Disciples fall asleep in Jesus' time of need:

Matthew 26:36-46 (Reader 1)

The betrayal of Judas and desertion by the disciples:

Matthew 26:47-57 (Reader 2)

Peter Disowns Jesus: Matthew 26:69-75 (Reader 3)

The final rejection by Pilate, the Jewish leaders, and the Jewish people: (Pastor)

Song: "What Wondrous Love is This?" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #164

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down; when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am – while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

Closing remarks (Pastor)

Closing blessing

* Closing Song: "Oh, To See The Dawn" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #177

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day: Christ on the road to Calvary. Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood. This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us. Took the blame, bore the wrath, we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain written on your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin. Every bitter thought, every evil deed crowning your blood stained brow. This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us. Took the blame, bore the wrath, we stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows his head. Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life, "Finished!" the victory cry. This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us. Took the blame, bore the wrath, we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds, for through your suffering I am free. Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live, won through your selfless love! This the power of the cross: Son of God slain for us. What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Naomi Friend, Elijah Goossen, Derek Ten Pas