

HOLY TUESDAY

Order for the Public Worship of God

March 30, 2021 · 12:00 p.m.

PRELUDE: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" M. Sherrill Kelsey

Brad Jones, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP David Bowen

✦HYMN: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" NEAR THE CROSS

**Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
Free to all—a healing stream—flows from Calvary's mountain.**

*In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

**Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star shed its beams around me.**

**Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.**

**Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.**

✦INVOCATION

GOSPEL LESSON John 4:1-26

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."

Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

**Merciful Father, Your Word tells us
to always be prepared to give a reason for the hope we have.
But we confess our unfaithfulness:
Rather than share the hope of the gospel,
we remain silent, for fear of rejection.
Rather than demonstrate our hope through generosity,
we use our resources on ourselves.
Rather than demonstrate our hope through service,
we idolize rest, comfort, and convenience.
Rather than demonstrate our hope through patience,
we become angry, treating others as obstacles to our joy.
Rather than demonstrate our hope in the life to come,
we live for the fleeting comforts of the present.
In the name of Jesus, who denied Himself so we could be accepted,
forgive us, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. I Peter 3:18

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous,
that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.*

VOCAL MEDITATION: "He Was Despised" from *Messiah*. G. F. Handel

He was despised and rejected of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

He gave His back to the smiters,
And His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair:
He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

*Christy Young, soloist
Samuel Metzger, organ*

HOMILY: Gospel Vantage Point. Brett Wynne

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" TOWNEND

**How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son, to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.**

✦BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Jesu, Our Joy, We Adore Thee" Jay Rouse

✦Indicates congregation standing

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