

HOLY THURSDAY

Order for the Public Worship of God

April 1, 2021 · 12:00 p.m.

PRELUDE: "In Love My Savior Now Is Dying" J.S. Bach

Dee Walker, alto flute
Samuel Metzger, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Brett Powell

✦HYMN: "Fairest Lord Jesus" CRUSADERS' HYMN

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be thine.**

✦INVOCATION

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 5:1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

**Merciful Father, You have united us to Jesus,
who is seated above all rule and authority and power and dominion.
Forgive us for living as though evil has prevailed,
rather than as co-heirs with Christ.
Forgive us for living captive to fear,
rather than as willing captives to Jesus, the victorious king.
Forgive us for trusting in our own power,
rather than in You, who is all-powerful.
Keep us weak enough to know our need for You,
and strong enough to be sure of Your sustaining presence. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. Isaiah 1:18

*Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*

VOCAL MEDITATION: "Behold the Lamb" COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us: and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.
So, we share in this Break of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you: eat and remember
The sounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin, shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of Heav'n around the table of the King.

Mary Edwards, soloist

HOMILY: Jesus and the Demon-Possessed Man Josh Preston

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" PASSION CHORALE

**O sacred head, now wounded with grief and shame weighed down.
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns Thine only crown.
O sacred head, what glory—what bliss 'til now was Thine.
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.**

**What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest friend.
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end.
O make me Thine forever, and should I fainting be.
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.**

✦BENEDICTION Dan Burns

POSTLUDE: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Johannes Brahms

✦Indicates congregation standing

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Visit 2pc.org/easter for a detailed worship schedule.