

The Worship of God

Sunday, August 15, 2021 | The God Who Shares Our Suffering



Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance

Greeting

Rev. Lee Gray

Prayerful Call to Worship

Rev. Gray

ONE: O God of joy,

ALL: God of grief,

CHOIR: God of healing,

ONE: God of grace,

ALL: we lift our voices in praise, for You are with us. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

Chalice Hymnal No. 65, verse 2

Taizé Chant

Jesus, Remember Me

J. Kevin Gray

Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Ryan Crowder

Luke 23:26-28, 32-33, and 39-49

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

ONE: This is the written word of God, for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Hymn

There by the Cross, the Women Stayed

MELITA

By Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Solo

There by the cross, the women stayed,
with the disciple loved by You.
Jesus, You were abused, betrayed.
Why couldn't others wait there, too?
Why did the others not remain
as You were dying there, in pain?

Congregation

Teach us, O Lord, to stay nearby;
teach us to stand with those in pain.
Teach us to hear our neighbor's cry;
teach us to risk for love again.
May we stay with the poor and lost;
may we remain beside Your cross.

The Church at Prayer

Rev. Allison Benfield

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song of Preparation

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Isaac Watts

Reneé Hutchison

My Shepherd, You supply my need, most holy is Your name; in pastures fresh, You make me feed, beside the living stream. You bring my wand 'ring spirit back when I forsake Your ways; You lead me, for Your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When through the shades of death I walk, Your presence is my stay; one word of Your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows, Your oil anoints my head.

Your sure provisions, gracious God, attend me all my days; oh, may Your house be my abode, and all my work be praise. Here would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

Message

God's Presence in the Room

Lia Benton

Moment of Reflection

During this time, reflect upon the message proclaimed as the music plays.

Offertory Prayer

Eric McCombs

Offertory Anthem

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert Martin

Chancel Choir

***Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Lia Benton

Song of Parting

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

BEACH SPRING

Chalice Hymn No. 461, verse 4

Called by worship to Your service,
forth in Your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that Your servants, Lord, in freedom
may Your mercy know, and live.

Postlude

J. Noel Lance

***Song of Sending**

I will sing of God's mercy, every day, every hour, He gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers, toils, and snares that He has brought me out.

He is my God and I'll serve Him, no matter what the test. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet!

Postlude

J. Noel Lance