

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020



Created by Murray Pruden

The Passion Story and Prayer (John 18:1- 19:42)

John 18 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

18 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. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 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. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” 5 They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” 9 This was to fulfill the word that he had

spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” 10 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. 11 Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”



Print by Jared Schmetterer

Prayer:

Creator,

As we start this path with Jesus, give us the moments to reflect within and around us. Allow us to make sense of those moments of what was, is and to become. Guide us as we go together with you and others on this Passion that we tell every Good Friday. A reminder that without darkness, we cannot see the light, that without the seed a tree will not grow. Allow us the strength to overcome.

As we reflect on the betrayal of Jesus, we search that betrayal we may have lived in our lives as well. We pause and take the time to remember, search, breathe and then let go... “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”. Give us the ability to let go as Jesus has asked us to. Amen.

Jesus before the High Priest

12 So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. 13 First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Prayer:

My God,

There are many judgements amongst Humankind. Many times, we react rather than stop, pause and reflect on what we believe is the truth. Today my God, grant us the blessing of patience and resolve to not only speak our truth but live it and look upon others in the same blessed way. Let us live in wisdom, so that no one would have to die for our truth but live for our love. Amen.

Peter Denies Jesus

15 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, 16 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. 17 The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." 18 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.



Prayer:

Holy One,

There have been times in our life, when we have neglected knowing you. We have had moments when we may have felt embarrassed, nervous or shameful to speak of who we truly are as an individual, family, friend, community and society. We got scared to speak of who you created us to be. Forgive us. Give us the courage to stand up to be what is right in this world, so that others can live in a world of safety. Let us support one another in good ways and speak with gratitude and honesty. Amen.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

19 Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. 20 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. 21 Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." 22 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?" 23 Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Prayer:

God,

Give me the heart to listen. Grant me the words to tell others of what is true. Settle the anger, hurt and sorrow that I may keep in my heart. And release the goodness that you created in me to others, to create a peace that is needed in these times of judgement. Our truths are not a wrong but a lesson to what you have asked to be, a path to your love. Thank you. Amen.

Peter Denies Jesus Again

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." 26 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?" 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Prayer:

Great Spirit,

There are times when we deny ourselves the truth. As Peter in the Passion story denies his relationship with Jesus, we too have denied, at times in our lives, our relationship with you Great Spirit. Forgive us. Simply forgive us for denying this relationship with the Spirit. We are your children, we are learning, and we will grow from our mistakes, from our shame, from our lack of confidence to be the loving creations that you made us to truly be. Courage dear Great Spirit. Let this blessing rain upon us all. Amen.



Jesus before Pilate

The Vigil- Mountains, Valleys, Messas (1988) by Doug Hyde

28 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. 29 So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” 30 They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” 31 Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” 32 (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” 34 Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” 35 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?” 36 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.” 37 Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” 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." 38 Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

Prayer:

Creator of Heaven and Earth,

We come to you asking this question, "What is truth?". As we walk forward in this time of our life, we see much change and the actions of others that we may not agree with. Allow us to see the truth to this change in our world and act upon it in ways that are for the well-being and grateful ways of those that are experiencing this change. This may give us the answer to the truth we seek in our lives, but also a peace to the change that your truth displays to the world we live in. Let your truth Creator be our hope. Amen.

Jesus Sentenced to Death

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. 39 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?" 40 They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2 And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. 3 They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. 4 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." 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" 6 When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." 7 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.”

8 Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. 9 He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 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?” 11 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.” 12 From then on Pilate tried to release him, 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.”



13 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. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” 15 They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” 16 Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Prayer:

Loving God,

Many times, we cry of the injustices of this world. We get discouraged and frustrated from the harm we see around us. And in many instances, we too are guilty of these injustices, sometimes without realizing it. Calm our spirits from these patterns of behaviour and give us a renewed thought and sight to these injustices. Place in our hands a new gift of life, a way of forgiveness, understanding and loving creation. Allow us to be that encouragement and peace during times of harm and hate. And together with our brothers and sisters in Spirit we can be the path to a creation to love one another, the commandment that Jesus left us. In loving companionship, Amen.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

So, they took Jesus; 17 and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 20 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. 21 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.'" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." 23 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. 24 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."

25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 29 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. 30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



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Prayer:

Great Mystery,

Hear my prayer, from my heart and mind in silence, as I reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus. Allow the Holy Spirit to enter my temple as I remember the journey Jesus Christ has taken. Let this be a moment for you Great Mystery, to guide me to what I need to receive in my life so that understand a little more of my path and your creation, your great mystery. (A Moment of Silence).

It is finished. Amen.

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. 32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. 35 (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) 36 These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." 37 And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

Prayer:

Dear God,

Let your miracles once again live through us as passionate people of your word. You have given us great wisdom and understanding to be miracles in this world. We are witnesses of the cross, we are witnesses of the truth. We are the miracle to go forward and help the world during their time of sorrow, their time of need, during

their time of change. Bless us the will to be a better people, a people that has the vision, the creation, the knowledge, the understanding, the breath, and the daily life to continue this great journey of life. Through the harshness and through the triumphant we will be the commandment of Jesus. We will be the will and the love, the promise to our world. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Burial of Jesus

38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so, he came and removed his body. 39 Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. 40 They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden, there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. 42 And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.



Prayer:

An Indian Prayer- by Chief Yellow Lark, Lakota Sioux

Oh, Great Spirit,

Whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all in the world. Hear me! I am small and weak; I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made and ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I understand the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy- myself.

Make me always ready, to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So, when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Amen.

