

Family Devotional (FBC Westwego)

Friday, April 10, 2020 (Good Friday)

Note From Pastor Eric

Good Friday is one of the most important Holy Days (a.k.a holidays) in the Christian Year. Good Friday is the day we remember the crucifixion. The only other event more important than this is Easter. I've prepared this family devotional as a time of reflection on this event. If you have access to it, you might consider watching *The Passion of the Christ*, Mel Gibson's movie from a while back about the last week of Jesus's life. It's a stunning visual reminder of what Jesus went through for the world he loved so much. At the least, use this devotional as a guide for remembering and reflecting.

Opening Prayer

King of Glory,
We adore you, our Savior and Lord.
You suffered on the cross
And gave your life as a ransom for many.
We bless and thank you for the outpouring of your love
And offer our lives out of unspeakable gratitude. Amen.

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

13 See, my servant will be successful; he will be raised and lifted up and greatly exalted.

14 Just as many were appalled at you— his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like a man, and his form did not resemble a human being—

15 so he will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths because of him, for they will see what had not been told them, and they will understand what they had not heard.

1 Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 He grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground. He didn't have an impressive form or majesty that we should look at him, no appearance that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like someone people turned away from; he was despised, and we didn't value him.

4 Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.

6 We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, he did not open his mouth.

8 He was taken away because of oppression and judgment; and who considered his fate? For he was cut off from the land of the living; he was struck because of my people's rebellion.

9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, but he was with a rich man at his death, because he had done no violence and had not spoken deceitfully.

10 Yet the Lord was pleased to crush him severely. When you make him a guilt offering, he will see his seed, he will prolong his days, and by his hand, the Lord's pleasure will be accomplished.

11 After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied. By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him the many as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil, because he willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet he bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

Prayer

Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace. Amen.

Read the Passion Narrative from John 18:1-19:42

¹ After Jesus had said these things, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. ² Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas took a company of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Who is it that you're seeking?" ⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "I am he," Jesus told them. Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus told them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Then he asked them again, "Who is it that you're seeking?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. ⁸ "I told you I am he," Jesus replied. "So if you're looking for me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the words he had said: "I have not lost one of those you have given me." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹ At that, Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?" ¹² Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus and tied him up. ¹³ First they

led him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be better for one man to die for the people.¹⁵ Simon Peter was following Jesus, as was another disciple. That disciple was an acquaintance of the high priest; so he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard.¹⁶ But Peter remained standing outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl who was the doorkeeper and brought Peter in.¹⁷ Then the servant girl who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" "I am not," he said.¹⁸ Now the servants and the officials had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold. They were standing there warming themselves, and Peter was standing with them, warming himself.¹⁹ The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.²⁰ "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus answered him. "I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple, where all the Jews congregate, and I haven't spoken anything in secret."²¹ Why do you question me? Question those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."²² When he had said these things, one of the officials standing by slapped Jesus, saying, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?"²³ "If I have spoken wrongly," Jesus answered him, "give evidence about the wrong; but if rightly, why do you hit me?"²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not."²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?"²⁷ Peter denied it again. Immediately a rooster crowed.²⁸ Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They did not enter the headquarters themselves; otherwise they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover.²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"³⁰ They answered him, "If this man weren't a criminal, we wouldn't have handed him over to you."³¹ Pilate told them, "You take him and judge him according to your law." "It's not legal for us to put anyone to death," the Jews declared.³² They said this so that Jesus's words might be fulfilled indicating what kind of death he was going to die.³³ Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"³⁴ Jesus answered, "Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about me?"³⁵ "I'm not a Jew, am I?" Pilate replied. "Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"³⁶ "My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus. "If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."³⁷ "You are a king then?" Pilate asked. "You say that I'm a king," Jesus

replied. "I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ "What is truth?" said Pilate. After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no grounds for charging him. ³⁹ You have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So, do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They shouted back, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a revolutionary. ¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers also twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on his head, and clothed him in a purple robe. ³ And they kept coming up to him and saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and were slapping his face. ⁴ Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I'm bringing him out to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging him." ⁵ Then 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 temple servants saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate responded, "Take him and crucify him yourselves, since I find no grounds for charging him." ⁷ "We have a law," the Jews replied to him, "and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He went back into the headquarters and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus did not give him an answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to release you and the authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ "You would have no authority over me at all," Jesus answered him, "if it hadn't been given you from above. This is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." ¹² From that moment Pilate kept trying to release him. But the Jews shouted, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar!" ¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's seat in a place called the Stone Pavement (but in Aramaic, *Gabbatha*). ¹⁴ It was the preparation day for the Passover, and it was about noon. Then he told the Jews, "Here is your king!" ¹⁵ They shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar!" the chief priests answered. ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to be crucified. Then they took Jesus away. ¹⁷ Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called *Golgotha*. ¹⁸ There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹ Pilate also had a sign made and put on the cross. It said: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate replied, "What I have written, I have

written.”²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.²⁴ So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it.” This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: **They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing.** This is what the soldiers did.²⁵ Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, 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 home.²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, “I’m thirsty.”²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth.³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.³¹ Since it was the preparation day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special day). They requested that Pilate have the men’s legs broken and that their bodies be taken away.³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with him.³³ When they came to Jesus, they did not break his legs since they saw that he was already dead.³⁴ But 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 he is telling the truth.³⁶ For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: **Not one of his bones will be broken.**³⁷ Also, another Scripture says: **They will look at the one they pierced.**³⁸ After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus’s body. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and took his body away.³⁹ Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes.⁴⁰ They took Jesus’s body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews.⁴¹ There was a garden in the place where he was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it.⁴² They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish day of preparation and since the tomb was nearby.

Closing Prayer

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
And honor and glory and blessing! Amen!