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Bulletin for the 6th Lenten Service

HYMNS: 51 64 146 48 v.3

PSALM: 1 The LORD is my Light and my Salvation. Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the Fortress of my life. Of whom should I be afraid?

When evildoers came against me to devour my flesh, my oppressors and my enemies stumbled and fell.

If an army were to pitch camp against me, my heart would not be afraid. If a war were to break out against me, in this I would be confident.

One thing I have asked of the LORD. That I shall seek, that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to reflect in His Temple.

For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble. He will conceal me under the cover of His tent. He will set me high on a rock. Now my head will be high above my enemies all around me. Therefore, I shall offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy. I shall sing and make music to praise the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud! Be gracious to me and answer me!

When You said, "Be intent on My face!" my heart said to You, "I shall be intent on Your face, O LORD."

Do not hide Your face from me! Do not turn Your servant away in anger! You have been my Help. Do not cast me off or abandon me, O God of my salvation!

Psalm 27:1-9

COLLECT: O LORD, spare us from the folly of wickedness and the pursuit of evil. Make us rejoice in Your saving acts that we who have been redeemed by Your Son may abound in works of faith, hope, and love: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

SERMON: John 18:38 The Warrior faces Satan's Ally – the World

Pilate asked Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I do not find any ground for complaint in Him."

1st Reading: Amos 8:9-10

⁹ "On that day," the Lord GOD declares, "I shall make the sun go down at noon and I shall darken the earth in broad daylight. ¹⁰ I shall turn your feasts into a time of mourning and all your songs into a funeral song. I shall put sackcloth on every waist, and make a bald patch on every head. I shall make it like mourning for an only child, and the result of it like a bitter day.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Drawn from the Four Gospels, Part 6

The people stood there watching. Those who were going past kept ridiculing Him, shaking their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who are tearing down the temple and building it in three days, come down from the cross, and save Yourself!"

In the same way the chief priests and the scribes kept mocking Him among themselves, saying, "He saved others. He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, in order that we may see and believe!" "He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him! For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ¹

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him wine-vinegar. They said, "If you are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"² In the same way even the robbers who had been crucified with Him kept insulting Him.³ One of the criminals who hung there was blaspheming Him: "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"

However, the other criminal rebuked him. He said, "Do you not even fear God? For you are under the same condemnation. We are also being punished justly. For we are getting what we deserve for what we have done. However, this Man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!"

Jesus told him, "Truly, I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise."⁴

Jesus' mother, His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross of Jesus.

Therefore, when Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, there is your son." Then He said to the disciple, "There is your mother."

From that time on, this disciple took her into his own home.⁵

¹ Matthew 27:39-43; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35

² Luke 23:36-37

³ Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32

⁴ Luke 23:39-43

At noon darkness came over the whole land and lasted until three in the afternoon. About three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "This man is calling Elijah."⁶

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine had been placed there.⁷ Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Him to drink. The others said, "Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah is coming to save Him!"⁸

When Jesus had taken the sour wine, He said, "It is finished."⁹ Then Jesus cried out aloud, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." After He had said this, He breathed His last.¹⁰

Just then the curtain in the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised. They came out of the tombs, after Jesus had risen, went into the Holy City, and appeared to many people.

When the captain and those who were watching Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the other things that happened, they were terrified. They said, "Truly, this Man was the Son of God!"¹¹

When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what had happened, they beat their breasts and went away.

However, all those who knew Him, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.¹² Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.¹³

Since it was the Day of Preparation, to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath, and because that Sabbath day was an important one, the Jews asked Pilate that the men's legs should be broken, and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and those of the other man who had been crucified with Jesus.

However, when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. He who has seen it has been testifying about it. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth, in order that you also may believe.

For these things happened in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "None of His bones shall be broken!" Again another Scripture passage says: "They will look at the One whom they have pierced."¹⁴

When evening had already come, Joseph from Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself also was waiting for the kingdom of God, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action, and who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he was afraid of the Jews, dared to go in to Pilate and ask for the body of Jesus.¹⁵

Pilate wondered whether Jesus had already died. So he summoned the centurion, and asked him if Jesus was already dead. When he had found from the centurion that this was so, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Joseph bought linen and took Him down.¹⁶

Nicodemus also came, the man who had come to Jesus by night at the beginning. He brought a mixture of about thirty kilograms of myrrh and aloes.

Therefore they took Jesus' body and wrapped it in strips of linen with the spices according to the Jewish burial-custom. There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid. Joseph laid the body in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. After he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, he went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.¹⁷ They observed the tomb and how His body was laid. When they went back they prepared spices and perfumes. Then they rested on the Sabbath according to the Commandment.¹⁸

The next day, the one after the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. They said, "Sir, we remember how that deceiver said while He was still alive, 'After three days I shall rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, to keep His disciples from coming and stealing Him, and telling the people, 'He has been raised from the dead'! Then the latter deception will be worse than the former."

Pilate told them, "You have a guard. Go and make it as secure as you know how!"

So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.¹⁹

P: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands.

⁵ John 19:25-27

⁶ Matthew 27:45-47; Mark 15:33-35; Luke 23:44

⁷ John 19:28-29;

⁸ Matthew 27:48-49; Mark 15:36

⁹ John 19:30

¹⁰ Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46

¹¹ Matthew 27:51-54; Mark 15:38-39; Luke 23:47

¹² Luke 23:48-49

¹³ Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40-41

¹⁴ John 19:31-37

¹⁵ Matthew 27:57; Mark 15:42-43; Luke 23:50-51; John 19:38

¹⁶ Matthew 27:59; Mark 15:44-46a; Luke 23:53

¹⁷ Matthew 27:60-61; Mark 15:46-47; Luke 23:53; John 19:39-41

¹⁸ Luke 23:55b-56

¹⁹ Matthew 27:62-66