



OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7th, 2023 — 7:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

Erbarm dich mein, O Herre Gott, BWV 721

J. S. Bach

The people stand at the entrance of the clergy.

*OPENING DEVOTIONS

Richard E. Spalding

One: Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself."
Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Many: Glory to God for ever and ever.

One: Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this, your family, for
whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into
the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: Christ, have mercy.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: God grant that while we trace Jesus' path of sighs and tears, our hearts
may be so touched with contrition and repentance, that we may be
ready to embrace with joy all the crosses and sufferings of our own
lives; we ask this in the name of Christ Jesus, who taught his disciples to
pray, saying:

Many: 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.

*HYMN *See insert*

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ashley J. Popperson

O God, into your mystery we dare to enter on this evening of suffering and death. Give us ears to hear once again the power and beauty of a love that surrendered everything and sacrificed all on this day we call Good Friday. Stir in us such love as we seek to live in your Spirit. Claimed by your courage and strength, move us beyond our fear. Help us as we dare to follow you wherever you may lead us this evening. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 22

One: The Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Seven Last Words of Christ (*Les Sept Paroles du Christ*)

Music by Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)

Introduction

Words from the book of Lamentations and Ruth sung by a soprano soloist serve as an introduction to the Seven Words. This text, often called “O vos omnes” from its opening words in Latin, traditionally begins Solemn Tenebrae services.

All ye people traveling on life’s highway,
hearken to me, look and see.
Is there sorrow like unto my sorrow?
God the Lord Almighty, God in whom I trust,
hath dealt bitterly with me and my people.
Call me nevermore Naomi; evermore call me Mara.

First Word

From the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, we hear Christ's words on the cross and the crowd's response: "Crucify him!" Jesus offers forgiveness in return. A soloist delivers Christ's words, while the larger ensemble serves as the ferocious mob clamoring for his death.

"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

Then the people clamored:

"Death to him, he's guilty! Take him! Take him!
Let us crucify him! Let his blood be on us!"

Then they did crucify Jesus, also the two thieves,
one on his right hand, the other on his left hand.

Second Word

Christ's promise to the thief on the cross in Luke's gospel is followed by the thief's request to be remembered in God's kingdom.

"Verily, thou today shalt be with me in paradise. Amen, so I tell thee."

"Lord my God, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

Third Word

Christ's words from John's Gospel are paired with verses from the "Stabat Mater" — a thirteenth-century Christian hymn to Mary — which further expounds on her suffering as Jesus is crucified.

"See, O woman: here behold thy son beloved."

See yon mother, bowed in anguish,
who beside the cross doth languish,
where on high her son is borne;
is there a mortal, who not feeleth to behold her where she kneeleth,
so woeful, and all forlorn?

Fourth Word

Christ's cry to God from Matthew's Gospel account is combined with an anonymous Good Friday text, as a solo voice cries to God for mercy.

"God, my Father, why hast thou forsaken me?"

All those who were my friends, all have now forsaken me;
and they that hate me do now prevail against me;
and he whom I have cherished, he hath betrayed me.
Even the vine that I have chosen, and that I have planted:
wherefore art thou now so strangely turned into bitterness,
that I by thee am crucified?

Fifth Word

Christ's words from the Gospel of John are placed alongside the crowd's response: "If thou be Jesus...save thyself!" Again, we see the contrast between a violent people and their compassionate Savior.

"I am athirst!"

And the crowd then passing by him, all did rail upon him,
and wagging their heads at him, they said unto him:

"Vah! Thou wouldst fain destroy the temple;
if thou be Jesus, Son of the Father,
now from the cross descend thou,
that we may believe thee, and behold thee.
If thou art king over Israel, save thyself, then!"

Sixth Word

Borrowing texts from Luke 23 and John 14, a tenor soloist sings as Christ commends his spirit to his Father.

"Father, into thy hands I commend my soul."

For thou art my God and Father; thou art my Savior.

Seventh Word

With great drama, Christ declares, "It is finished," and the veil of the temple is torn. Dubois adds a simple prayer at the conclusion of "The Seven Last Words." This prayer, known by its Latin incipit "Adoramus te, Christe," is drawn from the traditional Good Friday liturgy.

And with a loud voice Jesus cried, exclaiming:

"It is finished!"

And he did bow his head, and rendered up his spirit.
And it was about the sixth hour; the sun was darkened,
and darkness covered the earth, until about the ninth hour;
and the veil of the temple was rent; all the earth did quake;
and the rocks were rent, and all the graves were opened wide.

Christ, we do all adore thee,
bless thee and praise thee forever;
who on the holy cross hast all the world from sin redeemed.

SILENT MEDITATION

*HYMN *See insert*

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

CLOSING PRAYER

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The People Respond: **Amen.**

All depart in silence.

OFFERING

*As you depart, please consider making a financial offering
for the Allston Brighton Food Pantry.*

MUSICIANS PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

THE OLD SOUTH CHAMBER CHORUS

Will Benoit, Jamie Chelel, Nick Fahrenkrug, Alan Hester,
Grace Manning, Sara Mitnik, Rebecca Nehmeh,
Adriana Repetto, Paul Soper, Connor Vigeant,
Matthew Wight, Andrea Wivchar, Kate Wood

Agita Arista, *flute*

Amy Budka, *timpani*

George Sargeant, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*



EASTER SUNDAY FESTIVAL WORSHIP

9:00a.m. and 11:00 a.m., April 9th

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection
informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration.



WORSHIP SERVICES

First Worship *informal & vibrant Sundays at 9 a.m. with communion*

Festival Worship *grand & expressive Sundays at 11 a.m.*

Jazz Worship *with sax & soul Thursdays at 6 p.m. with communion*

Vespers Healing Worship *gentle & tender 2nd Sundays at 5 p.m.*

CCLI #2802138 ❖ CCS #12028 ❖ OneLicense #A-7000000
OldSouth.org ❖ Facebook.com/OldSouthChurch ❖ @OSCBoston

My Song Is Love Unknown

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

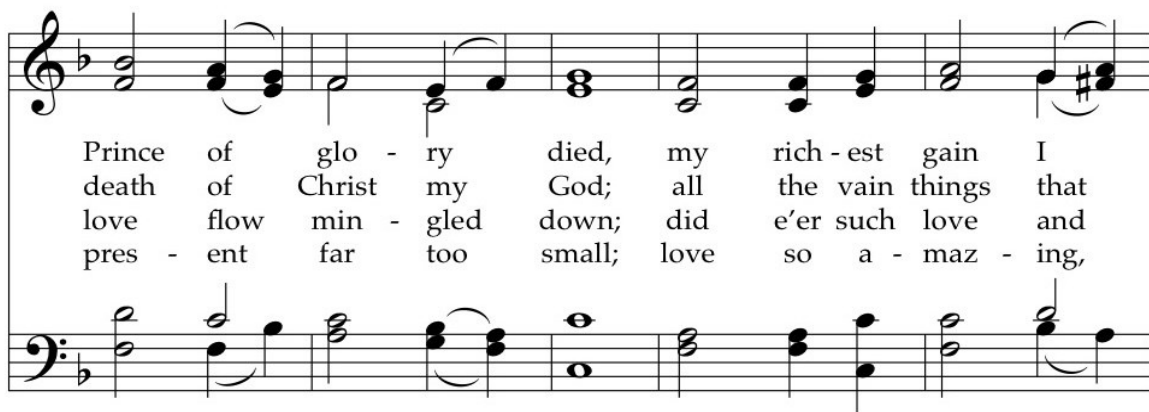
be. O who am I that for my sake my
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fering goes, that
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.