THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTARS

ANTHEM: Crucifixus ................................................................. Antonio Lotti
(1667-1740)
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato: He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate:
Passus, et sepultus est. He suffered and was buried.

The Chamber Singers

*The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 26:36-46
† following the reading:
Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn 290:
Go To Dark Gethsemane ......................................................... Redhead
† During the singing of this hymn, the altar is prepared for Good Friday. Following the fourth stanza, the congregation is asked to be in an attitude of prayer as the choir repeats the first stanza.

*The Solemn Procession
† Please follow the Ministers and Choir in silence.

*Those who are able, please stand.

The Ordinary of the Mass is the Missa pro defunctis, sung by the Gentlemen of the choir.

At the close of the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we will extinguish lights, symbolizing the crowds “who from that time went back and walked no more with Him.” As the shadows deepen, we follow the disciples as they, too, retire into shadows of darkness and leave Him, even the three on whom he depended most.

The final part of this service includes the stripping of the altars. First, the elements of Holy Communion are removed from the altar as Jesus’ death nears us. This is followed by the extinguishing of any remaining candles and removal of all symbols of our faith. The service concludes with the church in total darkness as the crucifixion becomes a reality.

Worship Leaders in Tonight’s Service

Homily
Rev. Julie Schendel, Associate Minister

Liturgy
Rev. Bill Britt, Senior Minister
Rev. Matthew Nelson, Associate Minister
Rev. Julie Wright, Associate Minister
Rev. Leslie Lyons Watkins, Associate Minister

Music
Scott H. Atchison, Director of Music and Organist
Nicole Marane, Associate Director of Music and Associate Organist
The Chancel Choir
Isaac Olguin, soloist, Georgia Boy Choir
Amy Little, soloist

Orchestra
Ginny Respess, Violin; Roye Harran, Cello
Todd Sitch, Flute; Elizabeth Tiscione, Oboe
Jacin Rainey, Horn; Julie Koenig, Harp
Lisa Angert-Morris, Timpani

He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate:
He suffered and was buried.
At the procession, hymn 626:

The offertory anthem: Dan Forrest


Give us peace. Amen.

Let us fear, and let us love the living God.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord, in the company of Thy saints forever.

Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Grant us peace.

† Sung by the choir, the people joined.

The day of Christ has come. Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Amen.

† The people are seated.

At the presentation, hymn 95:

The Administratio of holy communion

Hymn 282: ‘Tis Finished! The Man Gave up his Life

Tune: Old Hundredth

Olive's Brow

Dan Forrest

† Sung by the choir.

† The people are seated.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He is our Passover Lamb. He was betrayed and handed over to the authorities by the betrayal of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: ‘Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: ‘Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the whole body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

At the invocation

The offering

† The confession

† The presentation

† The great thanksgiving

† Sung by the choir, the people joined.

† The people are seated.

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