



## **FIFTH READING ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ Jesus' Suffering under the Secular Authorities**

(...continued) evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go. And they cried out more exceedingly: Crucify Him! And they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.

And Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole band of soldiers around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. And when they had twisted a crown out of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him and began to salute Him, saying: Hail, King of the Jews! And they struck Him in the face and spat on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him.

Pilate then went out again, and said to them: Look, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him. Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them: Behold the Man! Therefore when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying: Crucify Him, crucify Him! Pilate said to them: You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him. The Jews answered him: We have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus: Where are You from? But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him: Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You? Jesus answered: *You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.* From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying: If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgement seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews: Behold your king. But they cried out: Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him! Pilate said to them: Shall I crucify your king? The chief priests answered: We have no king but Caesar.

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he gave sentence that it should be as they requested. And he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying: I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it. And all the people answered and said: His blood be on us and on our children.

Then he released to them Barabbas, whom they requested, who had been thrown in prison for insurrection and murder; but he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to their will, to be crucified. *(Here ends the 5<sup>th</sup> Passion History Reading)*



## **○ ✠ I. The Service of Vespers ELH p.120 ✠ ○**

**WELCOME: 04/09/14 4:30pm LENT5A-MIDWEEK INVOCATION** Please *rise*.

*P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.*

**THE CONFESSION OF SINS** *P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.*

**C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy Law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name.**

### **THE ABSOLUTION**

*P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### **OPENING HYMN: "Alas, And Did My Saviour Bleed" ELH #282 I.WATTS**

1. Alas! and did my- Saviour bleed, - And did my Sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred Head - For sin-ners- such as I?
2. This Body slain, sweet- Jesus, Thine - And bathed in Its own Blood,  
While all exposed to wrath divine, - The glor-ious- Suff'rer stood!
3. Was it for crimes that- I had done - He groaned upon the Tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, - And love- be-yond degree!
4. Well might the sun in- darkness hide - And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty Maker, died - For man- the- creature's sin.
5. Thus might I hide my- blushing face - While His dear Cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, - And melt- mine- eyes in tears.
6. But drops of grief can- ne'er repay - The debt of love I owe;  
Dear Lord, renew my faith today, - And teach- me- what to do.

### **The VERSICLES ELH, p.120**

*P: ♪ O Lord, open my lips. C: ♪ And my mouth will show forth Your praise.*

*P: ♪ Make haste, O God, to deliver me. C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.*

**The GLORIA PATRI** *C: ♪ Glory be to the Father, - and to the Son, - and to the Holy Ghost. - As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, for-ev-er-more. - A-men.*

📖 Here are the words to **Psalm 143** - Please READ along! 📖

*P: Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness.*

**C: Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous.**

<sup>3</sup> *For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead.*

<sup>4</sup> **Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed.**

<sup>5</sup> *I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.*

<sup>6</sup> **I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land.**

<sup>7</sup> *Answer me speedily, O LORD; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.*

<sup>8</sup> **Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.**

<sup>9</sup> *Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; In You I take shelter.*

<sup>10</sup> **Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.**

<sup>11</sup> *Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.*

<sup>12</sup> **In Your mercy cut off my enemies, And destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.**

*(All)* **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
one True God, now and forever. Amen**

**PASSION HISTORY: 5<sup>TH</sup> READING ✧ Jesus Suffering Under Secular Leaders**

**RESPONSORY** *P: O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: ♪ Thanks be to You, O Lord!*

**SERMON HYMN: "I'm But a Stranger Here" ELH #474 (4 verses) HEAVEN**

1. I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home; - Earth is a desert dread,  
Heav'n is my home. - Danger and sorrow stand Round me on every hand;  
Heav'n is my fatherland-, Heav'n is my home.

2. What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home; - Short is my pilgrimage,  
Heav'n is my home; - And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;  
I shall reach home at last-, Heav'n is my home.

3. There at my Savior's side Heav'n is my home; - I shall be glorified,  
Heav'n is my home; - There are the good and blest, Those I love most and best;  
And there I, too, shall rest-, Heav'n is my home.

4. Therefore I murmur not, Heav'n is my home; - Whate'er my earthly lot,  
Heav'n is my home; - And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand.  
**HEAV'N IS MY FATHERLAND, HEAV'N IS MY HOME.**

**SERMON SERIES "GARDEN TO GLORY" TONIGHT "GARDEN OF PARADISE"**

✧ p.2 ✧

## The OFFERING

**The VERSICLE** *P: ♪ Let my prayers rise before You as incense:*

**C: ♪ And the lifting up of my hands-- As the ev'ning sacrifice.**

**NUNC DIMITTIS** (*"Lord, Let Us Depart in Peace" ...music on page 124*)

**C: ♪ 1. Lord, now You let Your servant ... de-part in peace:  
Accord-... -ing to You Word.**

**2. For mine eyes have seen... Your Sal-va-tion;  
Which You have prepared before the face... of all peo-ple.**

**3. A- Light to light- ... -en the Gen-tiles:  
And the glory of Your... peo-ple Isra-el.**

**4. Glory be to the Father ... and to the Son / And to... the Holy Ghost;**

**5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and... ever shall be / Forev-... er-more, A-men.**

**KYRIE ELEISON** (*Lord Have Mercy*) **C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**The LORD'S PRAYER** (*Congregation pray, say together, ♪ Sung Amen.*)

**C: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil;**

**For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever and ever, ♪A- -men.**

**The (Evening) COLLECT** (*Pastor prays, Congregation Amen*) **C: ♪ A- -men.**

**The BENEDICAMUS** *P: ♪ Let us bless the Lord. C: ♪ Thanks be to God.*

**The BENEDICTION** *P: ♪ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: ♪ A- -men.*

**CLOSING HYMN "Abide With Me" ELH #561 Sing (odd) verses 1, 3, 5, 7**

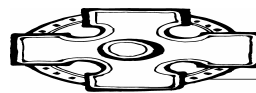
1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide; - The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, - Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

3. Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word, - But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,  
Familiar, condescending, patient, free. - Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.

5. Thou on my head in every youth didst smile, - And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,  
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee. - On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

7. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

**Silent Prayer** (*Candles out.*) **You may be seated. ✧ p.3 ✧ FELLOWSHIP**



**The Fifth  
Sunday In Lent**

**FIFTH READING ✧ Jesus' Suffering before the secular authorities**

Then the whole multitude of them arose and bound Jesus, led Him from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. (*continues...*)

✧ p.3 ✧

LENT-5(Wed) Revelation 22:1-6 “*THE GARDEN OF PARADISE*” 04.09.14 OSL

**TEXT** Revelation 22:1-6 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His Face, and His Name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show His servants the things that must soon take place.”

**INTRODUCTION** Today, on reading this Scripture, we have in a sense **come full circle**. We are back, in a sense, where we started with these evening meditations, back to **Genesis chapter 3**. Really, what is the future paradise but a **return to the original paradise**? What is that eternal life but a restoration of the way God originally intended life to be? That is the purpose and goal of Jesus’ work here on earth. That is our goal by trusting Jesus - not to make this world a better place to live but to be translated by God into that **Garden of Paradise**.

God had given the apostle John a vision and told him to write it down for us. God describes in earthly terms what heaven will be like. He does this to encourage and strengthen us. (E.g.) When a three-year-old must be **immunized**, it doesn’t help much to explain to her that the shots are good for her. But it does help to get her through it if you promise to have ice cream afterward. Or take **gardens**, for example. Who would want to endure the aching back, the stiff knee joints, and the sore fingers without the promise of ripe, juicy tomatoes; crisp, crunchy carrots; and sweet, tender corn at the season’s end? Knowing what awaits us in heaven gives us the comfort and assurance that the suffering and struggle which accompany the Christian faith are more than worth it.

Therefore, let’s remain faithful. This is why we are told, “*These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.*” (v.6)

The first Eden had a **river** that flowed through it and watered the whole garden. In this vision of paradise, this is what we see: “*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.*” (v.1)

The first Eden had a **tree of life**, which produced fruit that sustained eternal life to anyone who ate it. This vision of paradise in Revelation displays, “*On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*” (v.2)

The point of these two pictures, the river and the trees, is the next thing we’re told: “*No longer will there be any curse.*” (v.3) The **curse of sin will be gone**. Therefore the curse of death, hell, Satan, and any kind of suffering will be

erased. For just like a river of crystal clear water, Christ’s flawless, pure righteousness and the forgiveness of sins give us life forever, and the effects of his death on the cross will never run dry. Just like a tree that produces much fruit and even has edible leaves with healing power, Jesus said, “*I have come that they might have Life, and have it to the full.*” (John 10:10)

It is hard to imagine what such an abundant life would be like, to have bodies not held back or crippled with sin. Because of sin, we are not able to fully enjoy everything in this life at all times. And if we enjoy anything too much, we become enslaved by it and it becomes the death of us. Whatever we enjoy doing, whether in work or pleasure, ceases when we go to our graves. But in heaven, there will not be too much of a good thing. There will be perfect satisfaction. Our enjoyment will never cease. No pleasure will have a bitter side effect. Imagine the things with which we will be able to occupy ourselves without the fatigue we experience now!

The Apostle John’s vision alludes to this: “*The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him.*” (v.3) Imagine how awesome worshiping our God will be without the dullness, monotony, and sleepiness of our sinful flesh weighing us down. Add to that the fact that right now we can only take God at his word. We only cling to his promises by faith. But in paradise we will see God’s own face—the same God who has been making all these promises. We will finally have the real thing.

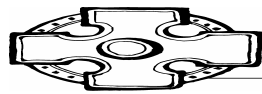
We are told, “*They will see His Face, and His Name will be on their foreheads.*” (v.4) That will be the greatest source of joy for us. Nothing else will be so fulfilling and satisfying as that. For the sole object of our faith is to have God. **Peter’s** first reaction when he saw the glorified Jesus on the Mount of **Transfiguration** was to say, “*Lord it is good for us to be here. Let’s stay awhile!*” He wanted to keep the Lord with him.

In paradise there will be no more danger of us losing our salvation, no temptations or bad influences to struggle against, for Scripture says that his name will be on our foreheads. In a sense, we’ll be branded, or labeled, by God as we were at our baptisms, so that he will not lose us or lose track of us. It will be the ultimate relief.

All gardens **need light** to stay green and healthy. In the **Garden of Paradise**, we are told, “*There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*” (v.5) Even now, God repeats his Promise of Paradise to us each time **we hear the blessing**, “*The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.*” And if His glory illumines us, then we will share that glory as co-rulers with Christ. Just as He shall reign forever and ever, **so also shall we**. Do you want importance, significance, a sense that you are a somebody? **There it is! You are God’s royalty.**

As you observe the dark days of Holy Week and even the joyfulness of Easter morning, do not lose sight of what it was that Christ was accomplishing. By His death and Resurrection, He won for you this Garden of Paradise. In the course of your own suffering and difficulties here on earth, do not lose sight of what awaits you. God encourages you with this picture so that you will keep trusting Jesus as your Savior and living for Him to the end. **I J’N, Amen. SDG**

**History of the Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to the 4 Evangelists + harmonised by Dr. Johann Bugenhagen  
compiled from the New King James Version**



**The Fifth  
Sunday In Lent**

**FIFTH READING    ✱   Jesus' Suffering before the secular authorities**

Then the whole multitude of them arose and bound Jesus, led Him from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning.

Then Judas, who had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned to death, felt remorse and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying: I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood. And they said: What is that to us? You see to that! And he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple, departed, and went and hanged himself and he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.

And the chief priests took the silver pieces and said: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood. And they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem, so to this day that field is called in their own language, Akeldama, that is the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.

But the Jews did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said: What accusation do you bring against this Man? They answered and said to him: If He were not an evil doer, we would not have delivered Him up to you. Then Pilate said to them: You take Him and judge Him according to your law. Therefore the Jews said to him: It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death, that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

And the chief priests and elders began to accuse Him vehemently, saying: We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King. Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and asked Him, saying: Are You the King of the Jews? Jesus stood before him and answered: *Are you speaking for yourself, or did others tell you this about Me?* Pilate answered: Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done? Jesus answered: *My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.* Pilate therefore said to Him: Are You a king then? Jesus answered: *You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born and for this cause I came into the world, that I should bear*

*witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.* Pilate said to Him: What is truth? And when he had said this he went out again to the Jews, and said to them: I find no fault in Him at all. And the chief priests and elders accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. And Pilate asked Him again, saying: Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You! Do You not hear? But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled. But they were the more fierce, saying: He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself also was in Jerusalem at that time. And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. And he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. And Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. And the same day Pilate and Herod became mutual friends, for before they had been at enmity between themselves.

And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them: You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, nor did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing worthy of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And there was at that time a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown into prison with his fellow insurrectionists, who had committed murder in the insurrection made in the city. And the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. And when they gathered together, Pilate answered: You have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Whom do you want me to release to you, Barabbas or Jesus, the king of the Jews, who is called Christ? For he knew that the chief priests had delivered Him because of envy.

While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent to him, saying: Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.

But the chief priests and the elders stirred up the people and persuaded them that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them: Which of the two do you want me to release to you? The whole crowd cried out, saying: Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas. Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, spoke again to them: What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? They all said to him: Crucify Him, crucify Him! And he said to them the third time: Why, what evil has He    (...continued)