Welcome to Worship: Thank you for making Grace-St. Luke’s part of your spiritual journey and for joining us today for this virtual worship offering. If you are new among us, please complete an online Connect Card at gronestlukes.org/online-visitor-card. Our clergy-staff team would like to reach out to learn more about you and to explore how life at Grace-St. Luke’s might bless your journey and you bless ours. For more about our thriving faith community including online formation (learning) offerings, please visit www.gronestlukes.org.

Celebrant: The Rev. Meredith Jane Day

Assisting: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

The Clergy and Musician enter in silence and kneel for a period of time.

Priest    Blessed be our God.
People    For ever and ever. Amen.

The Collect

Celebant   Let us pray.

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; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Hymn 158, stanzas 1,2 & 5, “AH, HOLY JESUS, HOW HAST THOU OFFENDED”

music: Herzliebster Jesu, Johann Cruger (1598-1662), alt.
text: Johann Heermann (1585-1647); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

The following spoken meditations and hymn improvisations are pieces for your contemplation on this Good Friday.

Meditation and Improvisation 1

Meditation by The Rev. Meredith Jane Day

Improvisation on “HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN”

O sacred head, sore wounded, defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded with mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendor the hosts of heaven adore!

In thy most bitter passion my heart to share doth cry,
With thee for my salvation upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved to stand thy cross beneath,
To mourn thee, well-beloved, yet thank thee for thy death.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love for thee.
Meditation and Improvisation 2

Excerpt from *Show Me the Way* by Henri Nouwen

Improvisation on “HORSLEY”

There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall, where our dear Lord was crucified who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear, but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good, that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his precious blood.

O dearly, dearly has he loved! And we must love him too, and trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do.

Meditation and Improvisation 3

“Descending Theology: The Crucifixion” by Mary Karr

Improvisation on “STABAT MATER DOLOROSA”

At the Cross her vigil keeping, Stood the mournful mother weeping, where he hung, the dying Lord:
there she waited in her anguish, seeing Christ in torment languish, in her heart the piercing sword.

With what pain and desolation, with what grief and resignation, Mary watched her dying son.
Deep the woe of her affliction, when she saw the crucifixion of the sole begotten one.

Meditation and Improvisation 4

Meditation by The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

Improvisation on “WONDROUS LOVE”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.
Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”
Improvisation on “Pange lingua”

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; of the mighty conflict sing;
tell the triumph of the victim, to his cross thy tribute bring.
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer from that cross now reigns as King.

He endures the nails, the spitting, vinegar, and spear, and reed;
from that holy body broken blood and water forth proceed:
earth, and stars, and sky, and ocean, by that flood from stain are freed.

Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory! Thy relaxing sinews bend;
for a while the ancient rigor that thy birth bestowed, suspend;
and the King of heavenly beauty gently on thine arms extend.

Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One:
one in might and one in glory while eternal ages run.

The Solemn Collects

Dear People of God:
Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us commit ourselves to our God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection. Silence

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. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Silence

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.
The Lord's Prayer
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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 for-
give 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
While the Clergy take Communion, the livestream congregation is invited to say the following prayers as part of a Spiritual Communion.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly Grace-St. Luke’s and those worshiping there, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory, and particularly for the bless-
ings given me.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glori-
-ous kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right
pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The service concludes with the following prayer. No blessing or dismissal is added.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judg-
ment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest
to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

At the conclusion of the livestream, the clergy will remain to kneel and venerate the cross in the Sanctuary. At this moment you are invited, wherever you are, to touch, gaze upon or to stand or kneel before a cross in contemplation.

1 p.m. Virtual Stations of the Cross. Tune-in to Facebook Live at 1 p.m. to join a member of the clergy for a
30-minute Virtual Walking of the Stations of the Cross depicted on the walls of the nave of Grace-St. Luke’s Church.

The Good Friday Offering of The Episcopal Church
Our Good Friday Offering supports the ministry of the dioceses in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle
East. It is a tradition that Good Friday offerings assist fellow Christians in the land of Jesus’ birth, life, and death. Contributions are used to assist them to promote peace and mutual understanding through pastoral care and health and educational programs throughout the region. Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry has asked that faith communities designate their offerings in this way. You may make your offering directly online at episcopalchurch.org/global-partnerships/good-friday-offering or make checks payable to “Grace-St. Luke’s” and indicate “Good Friday Offering” on the memo line.

All are invited to continue the day, giving thanks to God for blessings known and known, and by reaching out in care for fellow parishioners, neighbors, and any persons in need. Members of the parish with any needs or pastoral concerns: email pastoralcare@gracesstlukes.org or dial 901-252-6320, and for hospitalizations or emergencies, dial the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334.

The Rev. Meredith Jane Day, Celebrant
The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Assisting
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music and Organist
Lucy Owens, Director of Communications

Grace-St. Luke’s: Join us for events between now and Easter Day. Explore the following news, take good care, and please be in touch with the clergy-staff team to assist you along the way!

Virtual Offerings

Good Friday, April 10, Noon-12:45 p.m., Live Stream Service of Meditations by the Clergy & Improvisational Organ Music followed by Walking the Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 11, 7 p.m. Release of prerecorded 20-minute video of GSL clergy and musicians highlighting the significance of this night.

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, April 12, 10:30 a.m. Live Stream Festival Service of The Holy Eucharist including sermon and music.

Details. For important details about each of these and more, follow this link to Holy Week At Home and invite others to join us.

Next week, we will resume our temporary schedule of worship, formation and fellowship offerings and hope you will spend Eastertide by participating. Follow this link for details.

Take Note

Friday, Special eNews. Watch for an email at 3 p.m. about what to expect on the upcoming Sunday including service leaflet access, what’s ahead for the coming week, and any updates from the clergy or the senior warden.

REALM Connect for GSL Parishioners. Now, more than ever, we need to use all possible means to connect. One way to do this: setup your REALM profile, if you have not already done so. If you did not get your Realm invite, or you need help setting up your profile, contact Parish House Receptionist and Ministry Associate Abby Huber (901-252-6336, ahuber@gracestlukes.org) or Lucy Owens 901-252-6333, lowens@gracestlukes.org. It’s not just a database, but an interactive tool used to integrate parishioners, ministries, and groups. Think: GSL Facebook with more privacy features! You can update your profile including with photos, keep in touch with others through the directory, stay involved in groups, manage pledges and giving, and more. Sign up today and visit www.gracestlukes.org/realm for more information.

Worship and Music

Daily Meditations. In addition to Sunday and weekday worship offerings, Holy Week meditations posted at 7:30 a.m. on Facebook and the GSL website include music for meditation by ensembles and individuals. Visit the Daily Meditations section of Holy Week At Home to explore.

Christian Formation

Adults: All are encouraged to explore Virtual Offerings for a listing of events and learning opportunities.

Youth: Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. on Instagram Live, and Sunday EYC via ZOOM: Middle School 5 p.m., High School 6 p.m. Teens also are connecting on Instagram (gsl.youth) and utilizing the “D365” daily devotion.

Children: Households are encouraged to explore Faith at Home and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd resources at cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-approach/cgs-in-the-home-parent-resources.

Community Life

Extra Care during this Temporary Season. The clergy, vestry, and pastoral care leadership are reaching out to all households, especially our seniors and those who may be medically compromised to learn how best to support them: meals, errands and more. If you or another might benefit from such care, or you are available to assist with this ministry, contact the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher (901-252-6320, orencher@gracestlukes.org).

Recurring
Set up recurring 2020 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!

Online Giving
Make a one time gift now by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone!
Sustaining Our Common Life at GSL. The clergy-staff team, wardens, and vestry serve to support the faith journeys of households and to foster connections during this pandemic season and always. While we practice self-care and navigate changes that are complex for each of us, the ongoing sacred offerings of time, talent, and treasure will keep GSL strong and sustainable. All financial gifts support the administration, operations, and life of Grace-St. Luke’s. You may visit gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving or mail offerings to the church office. For assistance or if circumstances are changing, contact Parish Administrator Linda Stine (lstine@gracestlukes.org, 901-252-6324).

Pastoral Care: Sharing and Responding to Concerns. To alert the clergy of a pastoral matter concerning yourself or a member, including any medical procedures, contact the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher (901-252-6320, orencher@gracestlukes.org) for his collaboration with the clergy team. For hospitalizations or emergencies concerning a member, please contact the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334. This protocol is the best way to communicate pastoral needs and ensure a prompt response from a member of the clergy or pastoral care team.

Outreach

More Than A Meal continues on Sundays from 4-4:45 p.m. with a “brown bag” plan. The Food Pantry is closed temporarily due to the required physical distancing guidelines and a limited capacity to accommodate the increase of clients that would arrive to our confined space. GSL has partnered with the Mid-South Food Bank to direct clients to the more than 10 pantries available throughout the region. You may give now or anytime to the Mid-South Food Bank.

Please note: For other ways to serve while staying safe during the pandemic season, explore these resource guides and we’ll share other ones along the way: High Grounds Memphis Area COVID-19 Resource Guide and WMC5’s How To Help People In Need During COVID-19 Outbreak. If you have questions about how to get involved with outreach or know of other COVID-19 resource guides, contact Outreach Team Leader Bill Pichette (picwill at rocketmail.com).

Stay Informed

If you have not already done so, visit gracestlukes.org to subscribe to the parish eNews to receive weekly, seasonal, and emergency pastoral notices from the clergy or other leaders. Visit http://eepurl.com/bi3C5 to subscribe to the West Tennessee Diocesan Communicator, and for access to beyond-local news from The Episcopal Church, visit episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup. Please spread the word about these key communication platforms.

THE PRAYER LIST

Our prayers are asked for Brian, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Charles Chandler, Caroline Clay, Kay, John, Patty McManus, and Brad Larson.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially Bob Adrian, Jeannie Ashford, Patrick Burnett, Paul Cowgill, Josh Czupryk, Aaron Eason, Nora Eason, Jake Epperson, Meg Gerber, Ryan Gibbs, Charles Heiter, Rose Hill, Temana Kuo, Blair Mellone, Gini Mitchell, Sadye Moore, Jill Norcross, Andi Orpet, Andrew Phillips, Hunter Rowe, Anna Smith, Ward Smythe, Wayne Van Deever, Julia Williams; and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Michael & Virginia Rowland, Jim & Caroline Clay, Brian & Lee Schaffler, Robert & Molly Gooch, and Jim Mertzlufft & Carol McCrudden.

About the prayers: Names on the prayer list will remain for 1 month. If you would like your or your loved one’s name to remain longer, please call the church office.