

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD [GOOD FRIDAY]

MARCH 29, 2013

The priest and deacon go to the altar in silence and then prostrate themselves; all others kneel. After praying in silence, all rise as the priest and deacon go to the chair and sing or say the opening prayer.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 52:13—53:12

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25



Fa - ther, in-to your hands I com - mend my spi-rit.

Music: Fr. Samuel F. Weber, OSB © St. Meinrad Archabbey ; Text: © 1998, USCCB

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 4:14-16; 5:7-9

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

MISSA SIMPLEX



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end-less glo - ry!

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Missa Simplex: Music: Richard Proulx/Michael O'Connor, OP © 2010, WLP Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL

JOHN 18:1—19:42

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John

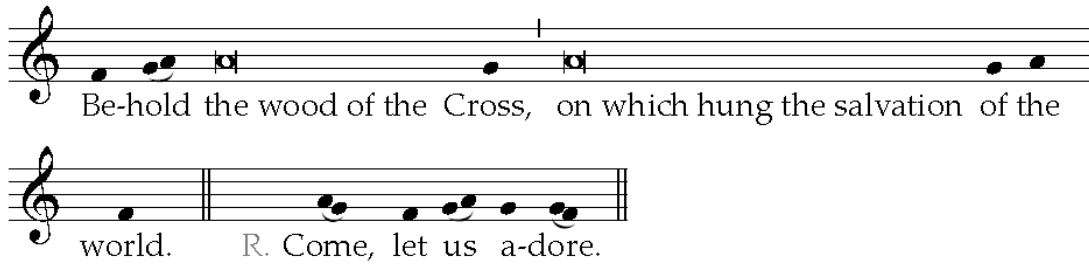
HOMILY

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

- I. FOR HOLY CHURCH
- II. FOR THE POPE
- III. FOR ALL ORDERS AND DEGREES OF THE FAITHFUL
- IV. FOR CATECHUMENS
- V. FOR THE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS
- VI. FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE
- VII. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN CHRIST
- VIII. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD
- IX. FOR THOSE IN PUBLIC OFFICE
- X. FOR THOSE IN TRIBULATION

THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

INVITATION (SUNG)



Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the
world. R. Come, let us a-dore.

ANTIPHON

Crucem Tuam

We adore your Cross, O Lord, we praise and glorify your holy Resurrection, for behold, because of the wood of a tree joy has come to the whole world. *May God have mercy on us and bless us; may he let his face shed its light upon us and have mercy on us.* We adore your Cross...

THE REPROACHES

Popule Meus

My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, but you led your Savior to the cross. **My people...** *Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us!* For forty years I led you safely through the desert. I fed you with manna from heaven and brought you to a land of plenty; but you led your Savior to the cross. *Holy is God!...* What more could I have done for you? I planted you as my fairest vine, but you yielded only bitterness: when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink, and you pierced your Savior with a lance. *Holy is God!...* I scourged Egypt for your sake with its firstborn sons, and you scourged me and handed me over. **My people...** I led you out from Egypt as Pharaoh lay sunk in the Red Sea, and you handed me over to the chief priests. **My people...** I opened the sea before you, and you opened my side with a lance. **My people...** I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you led me into Pilate's palace. **My people...** I fed you with manna in the desert, and on me you rained blows and lashes. **My people...** I gave you saving water from the rock to drink, and for drink you gave me gall and vinegar. **My people...** I struck down for you the kings of the Canaanites, and you struck my head with a reed. **My people...** I put in your hand a royal scepter, and you put on my head a crown of thorns. **My people...** I exalted you with great power, and you hung me on the scaffold of the Cross. **My people...** (*refrains in Latin; setting by T.L. de Victoria, English plainchant verses by Fr. Samuel F. Weber, OSB*)

HYMN

Crucis Fidelis

Faithful Cross the Saints rely on, Noble tree beyond compare! Never was there such a scion, Never leaf or flower so rare. Sweet the timber, sweet the iron, Sweet the burden that they bear! Sing, my tongue, in exultation Of our banner and device! Make a solemn proclamation Of a triumph and its price: How the Savior of creation Conquered by his sacrifice! **Faithful Cross...** For, when Adam first offended, Eating that forbidden fruit, Not all hopes of glory ended With the serpent at the root: Broken nature would be mended By a second tree and shoot. **Sweet the timber, sweet the iron, Sweet the burden that they bear!** Thus the tempter was outwitted By a wisdom deeper still: Remedy and ailment fitted, Means to cure and means to kill; That the world might be acquitted, Christ would do his Father's will. **Faithful Cross...** So the Father,

out of pity For our self-inflicted doom, Sent him from the heavenly city When the holy time had come: He, the Son and the Almighty, Took our flesh in Mary's womb. **Sweet the timber...** Hear a tiny baby crying, Founder of the seas and strands; See his virgin Mother tying Cloth around his feet and hands; Find him in a manger lying Tightly wrapped in swaddling-bands! **Faithful Cross...** So he came, the long-expected, Not in glory, not to reign; Only born to be rejected, Choosing hunger, toil and pain, Till the scaffold was erected And the Paschal Lamb was slain. **Sweet the timber...**No disgrace was too abhorrent: Nailed and mocked and parched he died; Blood and water, double warrant, Issue from his wounded side, Washing in a mighty torrent Earth and stars and oceanide. **Faithful Cross...** Lofty timber, smooth your roughness, Flex your boughs for blossoming; Let your fibers lose their toughness, Gently let your tendrils cling; Lay aside your native gruffness, Clasp the body of your King! **Sweet the timber...** Noblest tree of all created, Richly jeweled and embossed: Post by Lamb's blood consecrated; Spar that saves the tempest-tossed; Scaffold-beam which, elevated, Carries what the world has cost! **Faithful Cross...** Wisdom, power, and adoration To the blessed Trinity For redemption and salvation Through the Paschal Mystery, Now, in every generation, And for all eternity. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Because Mass is not celebrated today, we begin Holy Communion with the Our Father; there is no Sign of Peace or Lamb of God.

DURING THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MISERERE MEI, DEUS

WILLIAM BYRD

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam, et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum, dele iniquitatem meam.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy. And according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.
~Psalm 51:3

O VOS OMNES

PABLO CASALS

O vos omnes qui transitis per viam: attendite et videte si est dolor sicut dolor meus.

Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, which the LORD afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger. ~Lamentations 1:12

After the postcommunion prayer and prayer over the people, all depart in silence.

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ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

In keeping with the somber, desolate nature of this liturgy, all music is sung without accompaniment. This tradition of the Church is reflective of Christ's emptying of himself on the Cross. As we fast today from food, so we fast from the more celebratory aspects of liturgical music. Nonetheless, the unbelievable sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross has inspired some of the most beautiful sacred music ever composed. Today, our choir sings the Reproaches, or *Improperia*, set to the music of Tomas Luis de Victoria, a Spanish Renaissance priest-composer. The text is composed of verses of the Lamentations of Jeremiah (presented here in English, so that they may be more readily comprehended) and have been part of the Good Friday liturgy since c. 600 AD. The starkness of these texts and their extremely personal nature is rare in the Latin Rite liturgy: it is yet another sign that today is a day unlike any other in the year. Another sign that these texts are venerable is that the refrains are sung in Latin and Greek, in spite of the fact that Greek has not been a large part of the Latin liturgy for well over a millennia. Victoria's choral arrangement of the refrains of the Reproaches is one of his most brilliant achievements. Somehow, the music cloaks the text in a beauty that soothes the painful words of the verses. It is as if we hear the grace, mercy, and love of God at work in the Liturgy. Domenico Cardinal Bartolucci's setting of the hymn *Crux Fidelis* is similar. A four-part chorus dialogues with a soprano soloist. Here, the soloist alternately acts as a narrator and interpreter: all parts sing the same text, but the solo voice sometimes anticipates and sometimes reflects upon the chorus' text. The verses of the hymn ("Sing my tongue") were composed in the 7th Century by the poet St. Venantius Honorius. Along with the hymn *O Redemptor sume carmen* (sung at the Chrism Mass) and the *Improperia*, the *Crux Fidelis* is one of the most moving parts of the Triduum, as the saintly poet show us how Christ's death redeemed the fault of Adam, spared no pain for our sake, and led to the glorious redemption (and our hope of salvation) on Easter. The hymn also inspired St. Thomas Aquinas' *Pange lingua* which is sung as a part of the Holy Thursday Liturgy. During the offertory, the choir sings Pablo Casals' "O vos omnes". Casals reached prominence as the foremost cello virtuoso of the early 20th Century, revolutionizing performance on the instrument through his advanced technique. He never forgot his Catholic upbringing in Spain, though, and saved some of his musical moments for this incredible motet. This moving setting of a text from Lamentations uses varied voicings in the choir to portray the sorrow of Christ when confronted with our sins and iniquity. Today, we remember that God's most beautiful instrument is our voice, which he made. A final sign of the uniqueness of this day in the Church is that the ministers and people enter and leave in complete silence, and no Mass is celebrated.

Please feel free to take this order of service with you. Please pray for our catechumens and candidates as they prepare to share in the Easter sacraments!



PLEASE CELEBRATE CHRIST'S RESURRECTION WITH US AT EASTER!

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30: THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT, 8:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31: MASS DURING THE DAY AT 8:30AM AND 11:00AM