

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP 3

HERE

This Week's Gospels

John 19:25-27, Matthew 22:34-40

The Gospel of St. John

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The Gospel of St. Matthew

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Homily by Katie Graeber

Hi my name is Katie and today I will be talking about comfort and hope.

John 19 20-27 reads: "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing next to 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 home."

This doesn't mean that Mary was to adopt the disciple, but now they were related by grief. By doing this, Jesus has given them to each

other, for Mary to comfort the disciple and for the disciple to do likewise for Mary. I like to think that Jesus had known that his death would strike them harder than it would have others, or maybe that he knew they weren't going to ask for help had He not said what he said in today's text.

In Matthew 5 Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

To me, this sounded like a promise, one so important, He continued to uphold it through His crucifixion. Jesus was being put to death and He saw His mother and one of his students standing together at the foot of the cross mourning. When He saw them, He knew that even in death, the death that would take away the sin of the world, there was still pain and suffering.

Grief is a fact of life. Unfortunately, we will find grief, vulnerability, and pain at one point or another. For example, Mary, she got to be the mother of our Lord. That must've been so exciting and confusing at the same time. Then fast forward to her at the cross of Jesus. As a parent, imagine having to stand by and watch your child suffer a cruel and unbelievably painful death. Now the emotions can't even be phrased, sadness and rage can barely even begin to describe it. Now imagine having to go through that alone, without a community to turn to. How would you feel and what would you do?

I relate to today's text because of times I have experienced grief through loss. A few years ago, my great grandma passed away. I remember being young and incapable of understanding more complicated emotions like grief. After her passing, I kept pushing people who were trying to comfort me away. Somehow in my head back then, I found myself responsible for her death, so I thought that I didn't deserve the comfort people were offering. I thought I didn't deserve the love God was providing, and I ended up pushing Him away too, but he stayed, whether I knew it or not. The thing about God is that many times he does not show up in obvious ways. Sometimes it's so hard to tell when He shows his love, you have to hear it aloud. I didn't know that God had been sending me communities in my times of need until I heard people talk about it. When my great grandmother had passed, God sent many people, I was just blind to see that. A little

more recently my grandmother passed away. In this time of need, I was finally ready to accept God's love. This time he sent me my softball team who blew up my phone with comforting messages and hugs whenever they saw me. Sometimes, to see God's love and comfort, you need to step back and listen, and see what He's done for you in the past.

Overall, grief and vulnerability can be some of the worst feelings life has to offer, but in these times of need do not think that the Lord has turned His face from you. Because God sees you from the cross, you will not grieve alone, and through that hope and comfort will come.

Offering ELW 532 *Gather Us In* Offering received during Hymn



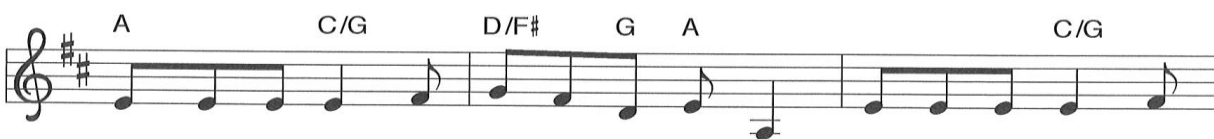
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all pc-o-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Worship Leaders

Homily	Katie Graeber
Cantor	Karter Johnson
Lector	JD Johnson
Prayers	Jake Parks
Prayers	Brooke Rothe
Sound	Holden Rouze

2025 Mid-Week Lenten Series: *Seven Last Words*

**Holden Evening Prayer each
Wednesday @ 7pm during Lent**

April 2 (7pm) – *Thirsty*– John 19:28-30, Matthew 25:37-40

April 9 (7pm) – *Finished* – John 19:30-37, Revelation 21:5-6



Two Ways to Give

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