

KILMACOLM PARISH CHURCH – Script

April 18th, 2025 Good Friday

Theme: “Who is on the cross?”

Luke 22:54 - 23:25; 23:32-46

Who is he,
arrested,
convicted,
sentenced to death?

“Woman, I don’t know him.” [Lk22:57]

Do we know him?

Do we ignore him?

We have followed him, but who is he?

Who is he?

He said: “If I tell you, you will not believe” [Lk 22:67]

When he was asked “Are you, then, the Son of God?”

He only said: “You say that I am.” [Lk 22:70]

He was accused,

he was interrogated,

but they did “not found this man guilty of any of [the ...] charges against him.” [Lk 23:14”]

And yet, the shout “crucify, crucify him” continued. [Lk 23:21]

But “Why, what evil has he done?”

There was “no ground for the sentence of death” [Lk 23:22]

“But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed.” [Lk 23:23]

Who was shouting, could it be us?

We arrived at the cross.
We witness his agony and his death.
We know this is not the end.
We want to continue to follow him beyond the cross.
We are longing for Easter Sunday.
We are longing for the light of the resurrection.
But for now we are here, at the cross.
It is dark.
Life seems to have withdrawn.
God himself seem to have withdrawn himself.

Deep down in our hearts we know we cannot come into the presence of the Holy God.
Deep down we know that God's Holiness reveals our shortcoming,
our failures,
our resistance to be the people he intends us to be.

And we wonder:
Who murdered him, was it I?
Who nailed him to the cross, was it I?
Why did he have to die?

"He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" [Lk 23:35]

Who is he?
Is he God's son, the Messiah?
How can the Holy and Mighty God die?
Is he not eternal, the creator of space and time?
God is just.
Therefore, we should be up there on the cross.

"It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed." [Lk 23:44-45]

We live in darkness.

Do we still realize the darkness around us?

Do we know that we cause darkness – even when we want to do better?

“and the curtain of the temple was torn in two” [Lk 23:45]

The curtain which blocked the Holiest of the Holiest in the temple.

The curtain which turned God’s dwelling place into a dark room, where no one can go.

What separates us from The Holy One?

What turns our hearts into dark places, which no one else should see?

Who can tear our curtains?

Do we want our curtains to be torn?

From the cross Jesus cried:

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” [Lk 23:34]

Jesus knows us.

Jesus knows that we always will be the people we are.

We are separated from God’s Holiness.

We murdered him.

We nailed him to the cross.

Because of us he had to die.

But the Holy God is faithful.

Jesus came into our world,

to be among us,

even so we reject him.

The Mighty God is compassion.

Jesus told us about God’s Kingdom, about God’s love to give us hope,

even so we don’t listen.

The Just God is forgiveness.

Jesus went to the cross,

to break our resistance.

Jesus died, to take away everything what separates us from his Holiness.

I pray that we are up there on the cross next to Jesus.

I pray that we ask:

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” [Lk 23:42]

This evening Jesus tells each one of us:

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” [Luke 23:42-43]

Amen