

# Music for Good Friday

## PROGRAM NOTES

by Deanna Snyder

**'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow...** Wm. B. Tappan

-- a reading --

—

**Hymn #123** “Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended...?” (Remain seated)

Introduction: a setting of the tune by Wilbur Held

Verse 1 all sing

Verse 2 women sing

Interlude: a setting of the tune by Helmut Walcha

Verse 3 men sing

Verse 4 all sing

Verse 5 all sing

**Litany of the Passion** (printed on back of program)

**Hymn # 117** “O Sacred Head, now wounded...” (vss. 1-3 only)  
(remain seated)

Introduction: a setting of the tune by Johannes Brahms

Verse 1 all sing

Interlude: a setting of the tune by Johann Sebastian Bach

Verse 2 all sing

Interlude: a setting of the tune by Jean Langlais

Verse 3 (standing) all sing

**“The Stations of the Cross”** by Marcel Dupré, with poetry by Paul Claudel

I Jesus is condemned to death

VIII Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem

XI Jesus is nailed on the cross

XII Jesus dies upon the cross

*(In keeping with the nature of the day, please refrain from applause.)*

The music of Dupré's Stations of the Cross (fourteen in all) is inspiring, to say the least, not to the heights of our passion, but rather to its depths. This music is not meant to be beautiful, but to be heard in the context of the pictures in our mind, as though we were hearing the orchestral background to the dramatic scenes of this great tragedy.

In the first station, the disharmonies of Jesus' death sentence fall coarse on the ear, wrapping us in the frantic, ominous scenes of impending terror. The cries of “Give us Barrabas” and “Crucify! Crucify!” seem to be heard above the mêlée of the crowds.

In the next movement, we are offered brief respite in the sweet passion of the Savior's care for the women of Jerusalem. We seem to hear beneath their terrified whispers of “Crucify!?” Jesus' calming voice, “Be not afraid; for I am with you.”

In the eleventh station, the gruesome scene begins to unfold with Christ being nailed to the cross. That depiction is dominated by the savage and relentless pounding of the sledge hammer, so disturbing that we cringe to realize it is our own humanity that has brought Jesus to this place.

Finally, in the twelfth station, Jesus dies on the cross. An uncomfortable peace settles in, only to be interrupted by the tremors of a great earthquake, as though all creation cries out at the death of this, the Son of God. We stare in fearful awe at the unfairness of this sacrifice. The deed is finished, and we utter a silent scream to God, “What have we done!” The passion of Jesus' great love for us and of our gross undeserving, leaves us stripped and penitent.

And so, go from here in humble silence, but know that we are a forgiven people, for the promise of the Resurrection is sure.

## Litany of the Passion

Lucien Deiss, 20<sup>th</sup>-century French Catholic liturgist

Christ Jesus, in agony in the garden of Olives, troubled by sadness and fear, comforted by an angel:

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Christ Jesus, betrayed by Judas' kiss, abandoned by your apostles, delivered into the hands of sinners:

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Christ Jesus, accused by false witnesses, condemned to die on the cross, struck by servants, covered with spittle:

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Christ Jesus, disowned by Peter, your apostle, delivered to Pilate and Herod, counted among the likes of Barabbas:

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Christ Jesus, carrying your cross to Calvary, consoled by the daughters of Jerusalem, helped by Simon of Cyrene:

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Christ Jesus, stripped of your clothes, given vinegar to drink, crucified with thieves:

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Christ Jesus, insulted on the cross, praying for your executioners, pardoning the good thief:

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Christ Jesus, entrusting your mother to your beloved disciple, giving up your spirit into the hands of your Father, dying for all of us sinners:

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

By your sufferings, Lord, heal the wounds of our hearts. Let your tears be the source of joy for us, and let your death give us life.

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

## *Music for Good Friday*

Friday, March 25, 7:00PM  
Grand View Lutheran Church  
E. 13<sup>th</sup> and Hull

Deanna Snyder, organist  
Charles Dickson, lector  
Mary Jane Holmes, flautist