

Good Friday
Stauffer Chapel
March 25, 2005
12:00 noon

Meditation on John 18-19

As believers we come to the hour of Jesus' glorification realizing that his death is his enthronement as the glorified Son of God, lifted up that we might have life. The prince of this world has come, but we see Jesus as the one in control of these events. He acts in accordance to his father's will and to fulfill what was written in Scripture.

The account of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death reads as a seamless narrative. These chapters are rich with characters, and John places as much emphasis upon those responsible for the crucifixion as on the crucified Christ, thereby revealing the nature of humankind, as well as the nature of God.

As the first scene opens an ominous note is struck: Judas new the place, for he had gone there often with Jesus. Thus, one of his own betrays him and upon his arrest he is taken before the religious leaders, while outside, Peter, one of the inner circle, denies him. When he stands before Pilate he is interrogated, mocked, and accused. Pilate is fearful of the Jews and turns Jesus over to their wishes. And in that dark night they confess Ceasar as King and reject Jesus with cries of "Crucify! Crucify!" And so he is nailed to the cross and a soldier pierces his side. Thus, in a hostile world the will of God challenges the forces of evil. It is a dark night of betrayal, denial, fear, rejection and death. But from his side flows water and blood. The Bread of Life, whose flesh is broken, gives his body and blood that those who eat and drink may live. Water and blood, life an

D'Esta Love
University Chaplain