

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

O THE BLOOD

**O the blood crimson love
Price of life's demand
Shameful sin placed on Him
The Hope of ev'ry man**

**O the blood of Jesus washes me
O the blood of Jesus shed for me
What a sacrifice that saved my life
Yes the blood it is my victory**

**Savior Son Holy One
Slain so I can live
O see the Lamb the great I Am
Who takes away my sin**

**O the blood of Jesus washes me
O the blood of Jesus shed for me
What a sacrifice that saved my life
Yes the blood it is my victory**

**O what love no greater love
Grace how can it be
That in my sin yes even then
He shed His blood for me**

**O the blood of Jesus washes me
O the blood of Jesus shed for me
What a sacrifice that saved my life
Yes the blood it is my victory**

**What a sacrifice that saved my life
Yes the blood it is my victory**

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INVOCATION

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

PASTOR: Surely, he has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Word I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LITANY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

PASTOR: O Crucified Jesus, Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, eternal Word of God, Lord,

ALL: we worship you.

PASTOR: Crucified Jesus, holy temple of God, dwelling place of the Most High, gate of heaven, burning flame of love, Lord,

ALL: we worship you.

PASTOR: O crucified Jesus, sanctuary of justice and love, full of kindness, source of faithfulness,

ALL: we worship you.

PASTOR: O crucified Jesus, ruler of every heart, in you are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, in you dwells all the fullness of the Godhead, Lord, Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, bearer of our sin, Jesus, redeemer of the world, Lord,

ALL: we worship you.

PASTOR: Let us pray: Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 53*

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten, by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

SECOND LESSON: *Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,

And did my Sovereign die?

Would He devote that sacred head

For such a worm as I?

**Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!**

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.**

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

PASTOR: O My people, O My church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Answer Me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: I led you through the desert forty years and fed you with manna; I brought you through tribulation and pestilence and gave you My body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, My chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you branches of My vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave Me vinegar to drink and pierced My side with a spear, and you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led Me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten Me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given Me gall and left me to thirst, and you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: I gave you a royal scepter and bestowed the keys of the kingdom, but you have given Me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of My love, but you draw the sword to strike in My name and seek high places in My kingdom. I offered you My body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon Me, and you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and Me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for My clothing, and you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: I grafted you into the tree of My chosen Israel, and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder. I made you joint heirs with them of My covenants, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me, and you have prepared a cross for Your Savior.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASSION STORY: *Mark 15*

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters) and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

Nothing but the Blood

**What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Nothing good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was

torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

SERMON

"When they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him."

Dear Christian Friends: There is no other word in our language that is packed with more meaning and is filled with more passion than the word, Calvary. Calvary is a holy word. There's no wonder that the hymn-writer could say, **"Lead me to Calvary."** That word reminds us of what Jesus did for all mankind. That word refreshes our memory concerning the events which accompanied His crucifixion. That word causes us to reflect upon His pain and His suffering.

**"Lest I forget Gethsemane,
Lest I forget Thine agony,
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary."**

Calvary presents a picture of extreme opposites. It shows humanity reaching its lowest ebb. Yet it shows Divine love soaring to its highest peak. On one hand, it shows what happens when evil lurks in the mind of man, but on the other hand, it shows the abundance of love in the heart of God. It allows us to see Sin at its worst, but it also allows us to see Grace at its best. It reminds us that we are wretched sinners, but it also reminds us that Jesus is a loving Savior. The word Calvary is made up of seven letters. Tonight, I'm going to have each one of those letters stand for a word.

Calvary begins with the letter "C" and that "C" represents the cross upon which Christ was crucified. The cross is synonymous with Calvary. When you think of one, you think of the other. Had there been no cross, we would never have heard of Calvary. The cross is our emblem. Countries have their flags. Schools have their seals. Fraternal organizations have their pins. But we, as Christians have our Cross. On one hand, that Old Rugged cross is an emblem of suffering and shame, but on the other hand, it has a wondrous attraction for us. For it was on that old Rugged Cross that the dear Lamb of God, died to pardon and sanctify me. So that letter "C" in the word Calvary represents the Cross. You can't separate the two words. When you think about Calvary, your mind automatically centers on the cross.

The next letter is the letter "A." It represents Agony. Agony means intense suffering and excruciating pain. Agony means mental and physical torture. Where else has there been more pain and more suffering than on that hill called Calvary? The very thought of it suggests agony. Imagine the agony of having nails driven through your hands and your feet! Imagine the agony of having a spear being thrust into your side! Imagine the agony of having to listen to the insults of the very people whom you came to save! Imagine the agony of being completely innocent yet being flanked on both sides by two convicted criminals! Imagine hanging there on that cross and looking up, and for the first time in your life, you can't see your Father's face. You have to cry out, "My God. My God, why have you forsaken He?" What agony that must have been? Each passing moment brought more severe pain. There were no sedatives. No tranquilizers. No pain pills. Jesus could write the book on pain. So, the "A" in Calvary, represents Agony.

The "L" in Calvary represents Love. You can't think about Calvary without thinking about love.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

"Greater love hath no man than this that He lay down His life for His friends."

Calvary is a love story. We didn't deserve to be loved, but Jesus loved us anyhow. We did not merit His love, but Jesus loved us in spite of our sinfulness. We were not loveable. We were infected with sin and filled with iniquity. But despite our deplorable condition, Jesus loved us. So, the story of Calvary is a story of love. It was not those nails which held Jesus on that cross. It was love. It was not His inability to come down which kept Him hanging there. It was love. It was not a sense of obligation which caused Jesus to die for you. It was love.

**"I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore.
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more.
But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry.
From the waters He lifted me now safe am I.**

**Love lifted me.
Love lifted me.
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me."**

Yes, the letter "L" in Calvary stands for Love.

Then, comes the letter "V." V stands for Victory. Calvary is a place where a great victory was won. Some of those who stood around the cross that day saw it as a defeat. A defeat for a man whom they had falsely accused of being an imposter and a blasphemer. When they saw Christ hanging there on that cross, they said, we have finally defeated this Man. This man who has been such a painful thorn in our flesh. It was the religious leaders who had brought Jesus to trial. The chief priest. The elders. The scribes. The Pharisees. The Sadducees. His death looked to them like the victory was theirs. When they saw Him hanging there on that cross, no doubt, they congratulated each other. Gave each other high 5's. They said, "We have finally defeated public enemy number one.

But little did they realize that what they considered to be a defeat for Christ was really a great victory. Not for them but for Him. Yes, Calvary was the site of a great victory. Every drop of blood which ran down from His blessed side went into a precious fountain. By the time He died, that fountain was filled with blood. A fountain which had been drawn from our Savior's veins. And ever since that blessed day, sinners have been plunging beneath that flood. They have been losing their guilty stain. That's a victory! The very moment that Jesus was lifted up on that cross, we were being drawn into the Kingdom of God. When Jesus cried out and said, **"It is finished,"** those were not the words of a defeated prophet. Those were the words of a triumphant Savior. That's victory. It is finished. I have completed my task. The victory's been won.

"A" stands for Atonement. Why did He have to suffer? Why? His blood was an atonement for all mankind. Jesus had no sin. We were the ones who were estranged from God. We were being held as hostages by Satan. The only thing which could gain our release was the blood of Jesus. So, Calvary is the place where our reconciliation was accomplished. It is the place where our release was signed. It was on Calvary that the blood of Jesus atoned for our sins.

The letter "R" stands for Resurrection. For the cross to have any meaning, there must be a Crown. There is an inseparable relationship between the Old Rugged Cross and the Empty Tomb. The story of Calvary is a compound story. You can't talk about a crucified Lord, without mentioning a risen Savior. For the cross to have any meaning, there must be a Crown. If you're going to talk about despair, you've got to mention hope. Just as there is a dark side of Calvary, there is also a bright side of Calvary. For every day of defeat, there will be a golden day. For every dark yesterday there's going to be a bright day of glory.

**"Up from the grave he arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose, He arose,
Hallelujah, Christ arose."**

Finally, there is the letter "Y" what does the "Y in Calvary stand for? It stands for Y-E-S. The whole story of Calvary is Jesus saying "Yes" to the ultimate needs of mankind. Yes, to the will of His Heavenly Father. We were wretched sinners and we needed a Savior to rescue us from the flames of a burning Hell. When God called upon His Son to come to Calvary and save us from our sins, Jesus responded by saying, "Yes, I'll go." Yes, I'll pay the price. Yes, I'll endure the pain. Yes, I'll give My life. My answer is Yes."

There is a Calvary in all of our lives. It is that time when we are called upon to deny ourselves; to take up our cross and obey the will of God. When the challenge comes, our answer is to be, "Yes, Lord, Yes. Yes, to Your will. Yes, to Your way. I'll say yes, Lord, yes, I will trust you. I will trust and obey. When Your Spirit speaks to me, with my whole heart I'll agree. And my answer will be yes, Lord, yes."

LITANY ON THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

PASTOR: Jesus told His disciples, "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me." Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow You.

ALL: **Help us, good Lord.**

PASTOR: You stood before Pilate, Your life condemned, Your word rejected, Your innocence ignored. Keep us from rejecting Your word of truth and salvation.

ALL: **Help us, good Lord.**

PASTOR: You carried Your cross on the wounded stripes of Your back, for love of us and for all the world. Help us to bear our cross, for love of You and for love of others.

ALL: **Help us, good Lord.**

PASTOR: The weight of Your cross was the weight of our sins which make us stumble and fall. In our weakness, we turn to You for strength.

ALL: **Help us, good Lord.**

PASTOR: Although You suffered, You still reached out to care for Your mother. May our cross-bearing never keep us from caring for our families.

ALL: **Help us, good Lord.**

PASTOR: As You struggled to bear Your cross to Calvary, a passerby was drafted to help You. Make us as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need.

ALL: **Help us, good Lord.**

PASTOR: Others also took risks to comfort You. Strengthen our faith to take loving risks for our needy brothers and sisters.

ALL: **Help us, good Lord.**

PASTOR: Sin weighed heavily upon You as You stumbled along the way. Forgive us, Lord, for the sins which make us fall.

ALL: **Help us, good Lord.**

PASTOR: Your suffering under the cross caused the women of Jerusalem to weep. Make our suffering in life a share in Your suffering.

ALL: Help us, good Lord.

PASTOR: The full burden of our sin crushed You mightily to the earth. Do not forsake us in our falling, but bring us to repentance and faith.

ALL: Help us, good Lord.

PASTOR: Stripped and jeered, You endured humiliation without complaint. Humble us in our work and daily lives.

ALL: Help us, good Lord.

PASTOR: Nailed to the cross, You took Your place among the condemned. Take Your place beside us sinners, and bring us through faith to the Paradise of God.

ALL: Help us, good Lord.

PASTOR: When Your sacrifice was complete, You handed Your life to the Father, and He did not forsake You. Keep us close to Your cross and death, now and at the hour of our death.

ALL: Help us, good Lord.

PASTOR: Faithful friends and loving women took loving care of Your lifeless body. Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love.

ALL: Help us, good Lord.

PASTOR: In the tomb You were laid, but from the tomb You arose. Be the Lord of the resurrection for us and for all the baptized.

ALL: Help us, good Lord.

PASTOR: Loving Jesus, for the sake of Your cross and passion, we are justified in faith, washed cleaned of our sins by baptism and repentance, and made one with God. We thank You for Your cross and for the depths of Your love for us. Help us to bear our cross in the world and follow You until You bring us into Your heavenly kingdom; where You reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen

PRAYER

O Christ, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. We thank and praise You that on this day You prayed the Father for our forgiveness; You promised us Paradise, You placed us in loving relationship with each other; You were forsaken of God, that we may never be forsaken; You finished all things necessary for our salvation; You committed Your Spirit to the Father that we may die in peace. Give us faith to glory in Your cross, by which we may overcome every evil and finally gain full and complete victory in Your name. Amen.

Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?