

"It is finished."



"Forgive them, Lord."

Zion Lutheran Church
Good Friday Service of Darkness
April 2, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: Darkness comes, the physical reminder of sin.

ALL: Tonight, we watch as our Lord is stretched out on the cross for our sake.

PASTOR: We watch in disgrace, seeing our shame laid upon the body of our Savior.

ALL: These hours of His suffering are times that we should reflect on the knowledge that we should be suffering for our sins.

PASTOR: Let us be in mourning tonight as our Savior is being punished for our wickedness. This simple truth should cause us to examine our actions every day. But redemption asks the question: *Will you?*

PRAYER

PASTOR: Let us pray. Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 53:3-9*

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 wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes 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.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, none would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

EXTINGUISH THE FIRST CANDLE

WELCOME

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand –
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noon-tide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess –
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

PASTOR: God grants us the vision of victory in Holy Communion. When Jesus instituted His Supper, the disciples had not seen His promise fulfilled. As we prepare to see the promise of grace, we know that to receive is to know that our sins are the reason we take Holy Communion. It is a cycle of knowing our sin, receiving His grace, and living like the cross matters to us. As we move with Jesus to the cross, let us confess ourselves, knowing the punishment He will soon endure so that we can understand the value of a promise fulfilled. We pray,

ALL: Lord, help us as we wrestle with the weight of sin and depravity of death. We gather this Holy Night to witness what sin does. We pray that as we reflect tonight on sin and suffering, that Your words of release would grant us what we need and what we hope for. Grant us a vision of majesties unparalleled, grace divine and grace unbound. Treat us with compassion and separate us from the cup of wrath.

PASTOR: We look toward fulfillment, a message awaiting its completion in the death of Jesus. We trust that His body's pain brings release for us. We believe that the cup of wrath destined for us has been handed to Him who is worthy. Come, share what is good from the Lord, for tonight, He is faithful.

All: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PASTOR: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Glory Be to Jesus

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life-blood from His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
Which from endless torment did the world redeem!

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, the blood of the Lamb;
O, the blood of the Lamb;
O, the blood of the Lamb;
The precious blood of the Lamb;

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.**

'O the Blood' by Mary Elizabeth Miller & Thomas Miller
© 2010 Gateway Create Publishing CCLI #38370

BLESSING

PASTOR: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER

PASTOR: Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: *John 18:1-13*

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost no one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?

They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;
They crucify Thee.

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,
This I do merit.

EXTINGUISH THE SECOND CANDLE

SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 27, selected verses*

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Jesus Paid It All

I hear the Savior say:
"Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray;
Find in Me thine all in all."

Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I
Where by Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus, died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.

EXTINGUISH THE THIRD CANDLE

SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 27:27-31*

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Christ Surrendered All

Jesus took my sin and judgment;
At the cross He laid them down.
Gift from God, He was forsaken;
Death He chose to save us all.

Christ surrendered all,
Christ surrendered all.
All for love, He died, my Savior;
Christ surrendered all.

In my brokenness and trials,
Lord, help me to think of You,
And of all Your gracious mercy,
Cleansed from sin, You made me new.

Christ surrendered all,
Christ surrendered all.
All for love, He died, my Savior;
Christ surrendered all.

Christ surrendered all,
Christ surrendered all.
All for love, He died, my Savior;
Christ surrendered all.

EXTINGUISH THE FOURTH CANDLE

SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 27:32-37*

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Alas! And did my Savior bleed and did my sov'reign 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!

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died for His own creatures' sin.

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.

EXTINGUISH THE FIFTH CANDLE

SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 27:45-54*

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

The Old Rugged Cross

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

**In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

EXTINGUISH THE SIXTH CANDLE

SCRIPTURE READING: *John 19:31-42*

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

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?

EXTINGUISH THE SEVENTH CANDLE

RECESSIONAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SLAMMING OF THE BOOK

Please exit in silence and return to celebrate with us Easter Sunday at 8:00 am or 9:30 am.