

Good Friday

April 10, 2020 7:00 PM

What can be more of a defeat than the death of the Son of God? His movement has collapsed. His followers have abandoned Him. Betrayed by one of His own, condemned by His people, executed by the government, and forsaken by His Father.

And yet we call today "Good Friday," because the defeat, though real, is not the whole story. This defeat is a victory. This loss is a gain. This death is the entrance to eternal life. His condemnation is our justification. His guilt is our innocence.

Tonight we celebrate the cross of Christ. We celebrate the atonement for all our sins and the redemption of all creation.

+ Service of the Word +

We gather around the cross to hear the Word of the Lord.

Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

(After the reading)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer

Reader: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

(After the reading)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Reader: Let us pray. 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 so 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.

People: Amen.

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (LSB 451)

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 interpose 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 awful load
'Tis the Word, may estimate
Mark the sacrifice appointed
See who bears the the Lord's Anointed
Son of Man and Son of God

Here we have a firm foundation
Here the refuge of the lost
Christ, the Rock of our salvation
His the name of which we boast
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built

The Bidding Prayer

We pray for the whole Christian Church, the ministers of the Word, for Confirmation students, for all in authority, for our world, for unbelievers, for peace, and for our enemies. Please submit additional prayers through the chat stream.

+ Tenebrae: The Service of Shadows +

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit

Reader: Call on Me in the day of trouble.
People: **I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me.**

Reading Luke 22:39-46

³⁹Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. ⁴⁰On reaching the place, He said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. ⁴⁴And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵When He rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, He found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶"Why are you sleeping?" He asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The first light is extinguished.)

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" (LSB 436, stanzas 1-2)

Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall!
O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

The Shadow of Arrest

Reader: O Lord, deal not with us after our sins.
People: **Do not reward us according to our iniquities.**

Reading John 18:1-8

¹When He had finished praying, Jesus left with His disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and He and His disciples went into it.

²Now Judas, who betrayed Him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

⁵"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am He," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶When Jesus said, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷Again He asked them, "Who is it you want?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

⁸"I told you that I am He," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for Me, then let these men go."

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The second light is extinguished.)

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

The Shadow of Denial

Reader: O Lord, enter not into judgment with Your servants.

People: **For in Your sight shall no person living be justified.**

Reading: Matthew 26:69-75, 27:1-5

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

⁷⁰But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

⁷¹Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

⁷²He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

⁷³After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

⁷⁴Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

¹Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. ²They bound Him, led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor.

³When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

⁵So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The third light is extinguished.)

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanzas 1-2

O sacred Head, now wounded
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown,
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

How pale Thou are with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.

The Shadow of Accusation

Reader: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;

People: **Unite my heart to fear Your name.**

Reading: **Mark 15:1-15**

¹Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate.

²"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

³The chief priests accused Him of many things. ⁴So again Pilate asked Him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

⁵But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested.

⁷A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, ¹⁰knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹²"What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

¹³"Crucify Him!" they shouted.

¹⁴"Why? What crime has He committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify Him!"

¹⁵Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The fourth light is extinguished.)

"Beautiful Scandalous Night"

Go on up to the mountain of mercy
To the crimson perpetual tide
Kneel down on the shore
Be thirsty no more
Go under and be purified

Follow Christ to the Holy mountain
Sinner, sorry and wrecked by the fall
Cleanse your heart and your soul
In the fountain that flows
For you and for me and for all

***At the wonderful tragic mysterious tree
On that beautiful scandalous night
you and me
Were atoned by His blood and forever
washed white
On that beautiful scandalous night***

Go on up to the mountain of mercy
To the crimson perpetual tide
Kneel down on the shore
Be thirsty no more
Go under and be purified (*chorus*)

On the hillside you will be delivered
At the foot of the cross, justified
And your spirit restored
By the river that pours
From our blessed Savior's side (*chorus*)

The Shadow of Mockery

Reader: Help us, O God of our salvation, to proclaim the glory of Your name.
People: **Deliver us and purge away our sins for Your name's sake.**

Reading: **Matthew 27:27-31**

²⁷Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around Him. ²⁸They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, ²⁹and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰They spit on Him, and took the staff and struck Him on the head again and again. ³¹After they had mocked Him, they took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The fifth light is extinguished.)

Hymn ***"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*** **LSB 450, stanzas 3-4**

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered,
Was all for sinners gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain,
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant me to Thy grace.

My Shepherd, now receive me;
My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
To heav'nly joys above.

The Shadow of Crucifixion

Reader: God forbid that I should glory:
People: **Except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reading: Matthew 27:32-44

³²As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced Him to carry the cross. ³³They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). ³⁴There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, He refused to drink it. ³⁵When they had crucified Him, they divided up His clothes by casting lots. ³⁶And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. ³⁷Above His head they placed the written charge against Him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸Two robbers were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left. ³⁹Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! Come down from the cross, if You are the Son of God!"

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked Him. ⁴²"He saved others," they said, "but He can't save Himself! He's the King of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' " ⁴⁴In the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The sixth light is extinguished.)

"By His Wounds"

He was pierced for our transgressions	We are healed by Your sacrifice
He was crushed for our sins	And the life that You gave
The punishment that brought us peace	We are healed for You paid the price
Was upon Him	By Your grace, we are saved
And by His wounds	We are saved
By His wounds, we are healed	

The Shadow of Death

Reader: Humbly we adore You. O Christ, and we proclaim Your saving love.
People: **By Your holy cross and precious blood You have redeemed the world.**

Reading: Luke 23:44-49

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." When He had said this, He breathed His last.

⁴⁷The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." ⁴⁸When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹But all those who knew Him, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

(The seventh light is extinguished.)

"The Wonderful Cross"

When I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain, I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet?
Or thorns compose, so rich a crown
(Chorus)

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all *(Chorus)*

***Oh the wonderful Cross,
Oh the wonderful Cross
Bids me come and die
And find that I may truly live
Oh the wonderful Cross
Oh the wonderful Cross
All who gather here
By grace draw near
And bless Your name***

The Shadow of Burial

Reader: You will not abandon Me to the grave,

People: Nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.

Reading:

Mark 15:42-46

⁴²It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The eight light is extinguished.)

Hymn **"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"** **LSB 450, stanzas 5-6**

What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.

My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!

The Lord's Prayer *(spoken softly by all)*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

The congregation is invited to meditate silently on Christ's suffering and death. After a time, a loud noise is made symbolizing the closing and sealing of the tomb.

The candle reappears. A light is re-lit symbolizing hope

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

(You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

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