



April 18, 2025

Good Friday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Due to the solemn celebration of this week, there is no Prelude, Musical Offering, and Postlude. Only hymns are accompanied. Our worship concludes in darkness to remind us of our sin which God forgives through Jesus' death and resurrection. Today marks the second of the three holy days called the Triduum. Therefore at the end of our worship the Benediction is omitted.

The Congregation gathers in silence.

Procession of the Cross

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

O come, let us worship Him.

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Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“The Old Rugged Cross”

- ♪ On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering 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.
- ♪ O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. ~So I'll cherish...
- ♪ 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...
- ♪ To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. ~So I'll cherish....

The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn, 186 -Text & Tune: George Bennard 1873-1958; ©1913 George Bennard,
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Confession and Absolution

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. *Hebrews 4:14-16*

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. *A Time of Silence*

Jesus, our High Priest,

We humbly confess to You that we are weak. In our weakness, we sin against You and one another with our words and actions, and in our thoughts and the lack thereof. Our

sins cut us off from You. We know that the wages of sin is death, and we keep on sinning. We deserve death. Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Change our hearts and lives and conform them to Yours, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

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.

Hebrews 5:7–9

Jesus freely gives us what we do not deserve: forgiveness, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Prayer

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.

Amen.

Words of Our Lord

Distribution of the Lord's Supper *Please Be Seated*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a 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.

³He 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.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But 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.

⁶All 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸By 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?

⁹And 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.

¹⁰Yet 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.

¹¹Out 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.

¹²Therefore 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.

Verse Hymn

“Lamb of God”

♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to be called the Lamb of God.

~O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God!

♪ Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. ~O Lamb...

♪ I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. ~O Lamb....

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The Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶Let 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.

⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Gradual Hymn

“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?

♪ Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 456 -Text & Tune: African American Spiritual, 19th cent.;
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Nicene Creed

Offering

The Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

~Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

♪ Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Lift high...
♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. ~Lift high...
♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~Lift high...
♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~Lift high...
♪ Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~Lift high...
♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~Lift high....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 837-Text: George W. Kitchin 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt 1874-1956;
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson 1875-1947; ©1974 Hope Publishing; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

As a reminder of our sin and the death of Jesus for us, the sanctuary lights are darkened.

Reproaches

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you?
Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have
delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage,
and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

**Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal,
leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you?
Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to
those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and
you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

**Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal,
allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.**

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you?
Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I
looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O
My people.

**Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal,
keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.**

Prayer of the Church

Holy Gospel

Luke 23:18–56

¹⁸But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—¹⁹a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²²A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” ²³But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

²⁶And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” ⁴⁸And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Proclamation of the Word

“Jesus, Our Death”

Luke 23:46

Seven Words from the Cross

After each reading, a candle is extinguished

I.

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

II.

One of the criminals who hung there with Him also mocked Him by saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save Yourself and us.” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are getting what we deserve for what we have done; but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

III.

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

IV.

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? Which means: ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” When some of them that were standing there heard it, they said, “He is calling for Elijah.”

V.

After this, Jesus knew that all things were accomplished. Fulfilling the Scripture He said, “I thirst.” There was a jar of wine standing there. One of them ran immediately to get a sponge. He filled it with wine, put it on a reed, held it up to His mouth, and gave it to Him to drink. Though others said, “Wait and see if Elijah will come and save Him.”

VI.

When Jesus had received the wine, He cried out with a loud voice, “It is finished!”

VII.

Then He said, “Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.”

The Christ candle exits the sanctuary to symbolize the death and burial of Jesus.

The Strepitus

The slamming of the book symbolizes the sealing of Jesus’ tomb.

Lord’s Prayer *The Lord’s Prayer is spoken softly.*

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 Benediction is omitted.

We leave in silence, pondering Christ’s death to save us from eternal death!

Our worship continues on Easter Sunday.