

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 2, 2021

On Good Friday the church remembers the crucifixion of her Lord. Her remembrance, while solemn, is not a message of gloom, but a service of adoration of the Son of God as he offers up his life as the Lamb of God. Good Friday is part of the larger celebration of the mystery of salvation which began on Maundy Thursday and culminates in the proclamation of the Easter message, “He is risen!”

THE SERVICE

HYMN 119 – Were You There

- 1 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?

- 2 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?

- 3 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?

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord God, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior. Fortify us to live to your glory. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 22

Pastor: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

CONGREGATION: O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

Pastor: I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

CONGREGATION: “**He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.**”

Pastor: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

CONGREGATION: **My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.**

Pastor: Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.

CONGREGATION: **They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**

Hymn: O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace. A — men.

THE MESSAGE: Matthew 27:45-54

45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. 46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” 48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. 54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Surely He Is the Son of God!

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN 126: Lord Jesus, You Are Going Forth

**Lord Jesus, you are going forth For me your life to offer,
For me a sinner from my birth, Who caused all you must suffer.
So be it, then, My dearest Friend; I follow after weeping,
Tears flowing free Your pain to see, Watch o'er your sorrows keeping.**

**O soul, I take upon me now The pain you should have suffered.
My death will your release allow; My gift is freely offered.
The curse I choose That you might lose, Sin's curse and guilt forever.
My gift of love, From heav'n above Will give you blessing ever.**

THE SEVEN WORDS

I. Luke 23:32-37 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, touch us with your hands, which the sins of the world pierced with the nails, and forgive our ignorance for Lord, we knew not, indeed we know not what we did in sinning against you. Touch us to forgive and to bless, O Lord, for your endless mercies' sake.

HYMN 139: Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

- 1. Jesus, in your dying woes, even while your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for your foes: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

- 2. Savior, for our pardon sue when our sins your pangs renew;
For we know not what we do: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

- 3. Oh, may we who mercy need be like you in heart and deed
When with wrong our spirits bleed! Hear us, holy Jesus.**

II. Luke 23:39-43 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, look on us with your eyes as you looked upon the thief on the cross, that with him we may confess our sins and ask, humbly, 'Lord remember us when you come into your kingdom,' and by your same voice be comforted, for your endless mercies' sake.

HYMN 139: Jesus, Pitying the Sighs

- 1. Jesus, pitying the sighs of the thief who near you dies,
Promising him paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

- 2. May we in our guilt and shame still your love and mercy
claim, Calling humbly on your name: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

- 3. May our hearts to thee incline, looking from our cross to
thine; Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

III. John 19:25-27 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 there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, fill us with your love as in your pain you did comfort your mother, and provide for her need, and gave her both home and son. To such love, without compare, without limit, lead us, O Lord, now and forever.

HYMN 139: Jesus, Loving to the End

- 1. Jesus, loving to the end her whose heart your sorrows rend,
and your dearest human friend: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2. May we in your sorrows share, for your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy your tender care: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3. May we all your loved ones be, all one holy family,
Loving for the love of Thee: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

IV. Matthew 27:45-47 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, fill us with your faith since in your last agony you cried to your Father, 'My God, my God.' That no suffering, no shadow of doubt may darken our trust in God, nor separate us from your Father and ours, now or ever.

HYMN 139: Jesus, Whelmed in Fears Unknown

- 1. Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown, with our evil left alone,
While no light from heaven is shown: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2. When we vainly seem to pray and our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3. Though no Father seem to hear, though no light our spirits**

cheer, May we know that God is near: Hear us, holy Jesus.

V. John 19:28-29 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, lead us to see your thirst as you suffered in your humanity, that we might drink from you and never thirst again, but live in your Father's house forever, for your tender mercies' sake.

HYMN 139: Jesus, in Your Thirst and Pain

**1. Jesus, in your thirst and pain, while your wounds your life
blood drain, Thirsting more our love to gain: Hear us, holy
Jesus.**

**2. Thirst for us in mercy still, all your holy work fulfill,
Satisfy your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**3. May we thirst your love to know; lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

VI. John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, give us your strength as you resolved to do your Father's work and finish it. That morning and evening we live in hope, knowing that your great work for us is completed, to the glory of your holy name.

HYMN 139: Jesus, All Our Ransom Paid

**1. Jesus, all our ransom paid, All your Father's will obeyed,
By your sufferings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**2. Save us in our soul's distress, Be our Help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**3. Brighten all our heavenward way with an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

VII. Luke 23:46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, give us your trust, unquestioning, complete as on the cross, you committed your spirit to your Father. That whatever may happen, we may rest in the same everlasting arms, for your endless mercies' sake.

HYMN 139: Jesus, All Your Labor Vast

1. Jesus, all your labor vast, all your woe and conflict past,

Yielding up your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.

**2. When the death shades round us lower, guard us from the
tempter's power. Keep us in that trial hour: Hear us, holy
Jesus.**

**3. My your life and death supply grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

THE SILENT PRAYER

God of grace, we give you quiet thanks. The King has died to give us life. Help us remember the purpose of his passion and its blessed comfort. Help us remember your purpose in our lives and give us strength to fulfill it to your glory. Amen.

