

A GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WITH READINGS AND HYMNS

Opening Prayer

♪ **On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!** [LSB 422]

*(The selections from the Passion Harmony which follow
cover the time of Jesus' crucifixion, death, and burial.)*

Two others, who were criminals, were also taken away to be killed with Him. They took Him to what was called Skull Place, which the Jews call Golgotha. They tried to give Him a drink of wine mixed with myrrh and gall, but when He tasted it, He refused to drink it. They crucified Him there. Then they crucified two robbers with Him, one at His right and the other at His left and Jesus in the middle.

It was nine in the morning when they crucified Him. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they are doing."

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Isaiah 53:12 – Read by All

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

P Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15.

C **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** 1 John 1:8-9.

All **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Restore to me the joy of your salvation.** Psalm 51:1-4,12.

THE DECLARATION OF THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P As God has given you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and as you have called me to administer them, even so, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

C **The LORD is compassionate and gracious. He does not treat us as our sins deserve. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Praise the LORD, O my soul.** Psalm 103:8,10,12

♪ **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 to me Thy grace.**

[LSB 450:3]

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier, throwing lots for them to see what each one should get; and the tunic was left over. The tunic was without a seam, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another, "but let's throw lots and see who gets it" – what the Bible said had to come true: "They divided My clothes among them, and for My garment they threw lot" So that's what the soldiers did. Then they sat down there and kept watch over Him.

Pilate also wrote a notice stating why Jesus was being punished, and they put it above His head on the cross. It read: THIS IS JESUS FROM NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

Then the high priests of the Jews told Pilate, "Don't write, 'the King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'"" Pilate answered, "What I've written I've written."

The people stood there watching. Those who passed by were abusing Him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You tear down the temple and build it in three days – save Yourself if You are God's Son, and come down from the cross."

In the same way the ruling priests, with the Bible scholars and elders, sneering and making fun of Him among themselves, said, "He saved others – He can't save Himself. He should save Himself if He's the Savior whom God has chosen. He's King of Israel – He should come down from the cross now. He should let us see that, and we'll believe Him. He trusts God – God deliver Him now, seeing He delights in Him. He said, 'I am God's Son.'" The soldiers also made fun of Him by going up to Him and offering Him sour wine. "If You're the King of the Jews," they said, "save Yourself."

Psalm 22 (Selected Verses) – Read by All

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: “He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother’s breast. From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. 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. 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. 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. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

In the same way also the robbers crucified with Him insulted Him. One of the crucified criminals was mocking Him, "Aren't You the promised Savior? Save Yourself and us!" But the other warned him. "Aren't you afraid of God?" he asked him. "You're condemned as He is. Our punishment is just. We're getting what we deserve for what we've done. But this One has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come to Your kingdom." "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to him, "today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Now His mother and her sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary from Magdala were standing near Jesus' cross. Jesus saw His mother and the disciple He loved standing near. "Woman," He said to His mother, "there is your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "There is your mother!" The disciple took her and from that time on had her in his home

♪ **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.**

[LSB 450:5]

It was about twelve o'clock when darkness came over the whole country, because the sun stopped shining, and the darkness lasted till three in the afternoon. About three o'clock Jesus called out loud, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?" Hearing Him, some of those standing near said, "Listen! He's calling Elijah."

After this, knowing everything had now been done, and to have the words of the Bible come true, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. And immediately one of the men ran, took a sponge, soaked it in sour wine, put it on a stick of hyssop, held it to His mouth, and gave Him a drink. "Let's see," he and the others said, "if Elijah comes to save Him and take Him down." So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" But Jesus called out loud again, "Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit." After He said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

♪ **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!**

[LSB 450:6]

Sermonette

Based on Psalm 22:1-3

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? O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

“WHEN JESUS DIED ... WHERE IN THE WORLD WAS GOD?”



Just then (the moment Jesus died) the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth was shaken, the rocks were split, the graves were opened, and many bodies of the holy people asleep in death were brought back to life; they came out of the graves and after He rose went into the holy city, where many saw them.

When the captain who stood facing Jesus saw how He gave up His spirit, he praised God. "This Man certainly was righteous," he said. And when he and those watching Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the other things happening, they were terrified. "He certainly was the Son of God!" they said.

When all the people who had come there to see this saw what happened, they beat their breasts and turned back.

All His friends, including many women, were standing at a distance and watching. Among them were Mary from Magdala and Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joseph, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. While He was in Galilee, they had followed Him and helped Him. And from Galilee they followed Jesus to help Him and came up to Jerusalem with Him.

Since it was Friday and the Jews didn't want the bodies to stay on the crosses on Saturday, because that Sabbath was an important day, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the men broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other who had been crucified with Him.

When they came to Jesus and saw He was dead already, they didn't break His legs, but one of the soldiers stuck a spear into His side, and immediately blood and water came out. He who saw it has testified about it, and his testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth so that you too will believe.

In this way what the Bible said had to come true: "None of His bones will be broken." And it says in another place, "They will look at Him whom they pierced."

♪ **O perfect life of love! All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above To do for us below.**

**No work is left undone Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one, The Scriptures have fulfilled.**

**In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.**

**In every time of need, Before the judgment-throne,
Thy works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, Thy merits, not mine own.** [LSB 452]

Good Friday Offering and Prayer

There was a man by the name of Joseph, an important member of the Jewish court, a good and righteous man who had not voted for their plan an action. He was from Arimathea, a Jewish town, and was looking forward to God's kingdom. He had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he was afraid of the Jews.

In the evening, since it was the day of preparation, that is, Friday, Joseph dared to go to Pilate and ask him to let him take Jesus' body away. Pilate was surprised He was already dead. He called the captain and asked him, "Has He died already?" When the captain told him, Pilate ordered the body given to Joseph.

Joseph bought some linen and came and took Jesus' body down. Then came also Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds. They took Jesus' body and wrapped it with the spices in some clean linen according to the Jewish custom of burying the dead.

There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was Joseph's own unused grave that he had cut in the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Here, then – because it was Friday (when the Jews got ready for the Sabbath) and the day of rest was just starting and the grave was near – they laid Jesus.

The women who had come with Him from Galilee followed close behind. Mary from Magdala and the other Mary, the mother of Joses, were there. Sitting opposite the grave, they watched where and how His body was laid. After rolling a big stone against the door of the grave, Joseph went away. Then the women went back and prepared spices and perfumes. But on Saturday they rested according to the commandment.

The next day – the Saturday after the day of preparation – the ruling priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember how that deceiver said while He was still alive, 'On the third day I will rise.' Now, order the grave to be made secure till the third day, or His disciples may come and steal Him and tell the people, 'He rose from the dead.' Then the last deception will be worse than the first."

"Take a guard," Pilate told them. "Go and make it as secure as you know how." So they went and secured the grave by sealing the stone and setting the guard.

The Benediction

Closing Hymn

**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.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.**

[LSB 425]

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Serving us at God's House Today

Organist: Suzannah Miller

Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys

All are invited to join with us again for the celebration of
Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday at 9:30 am.



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