

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD



GOOD FRIDAY

April 2
AD 2026

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation should assemble in silence.

The church will grow darker and darker throughout the service in symbol of the darkness of sin and death and the darkness that covered the land at the death of Christ.

A LOUD noise will be heard near the end of the service. It represents the closing of the tomb.

There will be no blessing at the end of the service as the service actually continues tomorrow at the Easter Vigil.

If you wish to give an offering, you can place it in the basket just outside the church in the entryway on your way in or out. You can also "Give By Text" by texting to 833-946-1361 the amount you wish to donate, using the \$ before the amount; then follow the instructions in the reply text.

You may stay after the service to meditate and pray as long as you like and then leave in silence.

There is no preservice or post-service music in symbol of the somberness of this holy day.

The minister enters in silence.

Good Friday Sentence

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has exalted Him to the highest place and given Him the name that is above every name.

Prayer for Good Friday

Let us pray. God Most Holy, 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, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

ISAIAH 53

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 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.

The congregation sings:

Hymn 432 st 1,2

**1. O dearest Jesus,
what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence
should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have
you to make confession
What dark transgression?**

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

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION

CHRIST IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Matthew 27:24-26

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Gospel of Christ.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

Dearest Lord,

in humble awe and reverent silence, we have gathered to remember your death. Lead us to see the horror and misery of sin, death and Satan that you willingly took on Yourself for us. Help us to believe we are worth that much to You. Amen.

The first candle is extinguished.

The Jr Choir sings:

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.*

CHRIST RECEIVES HIS CROSS

Matthew 27:27-31

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and 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. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Gospel of Christ.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

Holy Father,

You are a just God who accepts only perfection and punishes sin. Today we see what our sin has done as Your Son accepts the just punishment we deserve. But today we see Your love as You did not spare Your only Son but gave Him up to redeem us. Gives us comfort and peace in His sacrifice. Amen.

The second candle is extinguished.

The congregation sings:

**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.**

**If you think of sin but lightly
nor suppose the evil great,
here you see 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.**

**Here we have a firm foundation,
here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the rock of our salvation,
is 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.**

Hymn 430 st 1,3,4

CHRIST'S CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

Matthew 27:32-34

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.

The Gospel of Christ.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

Dear Jesus,

as our brother on earth you endured the agony of pain that besieged your body when your sacrifice was complete. Knowing our experiences, hover over us with your care and compassion when our bodies and hearts are hurting. Provide us with strength that we may confess you with confidence and power. Amen.

The third candle is extinguished

The congregation sings:

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for such a worm as I?**

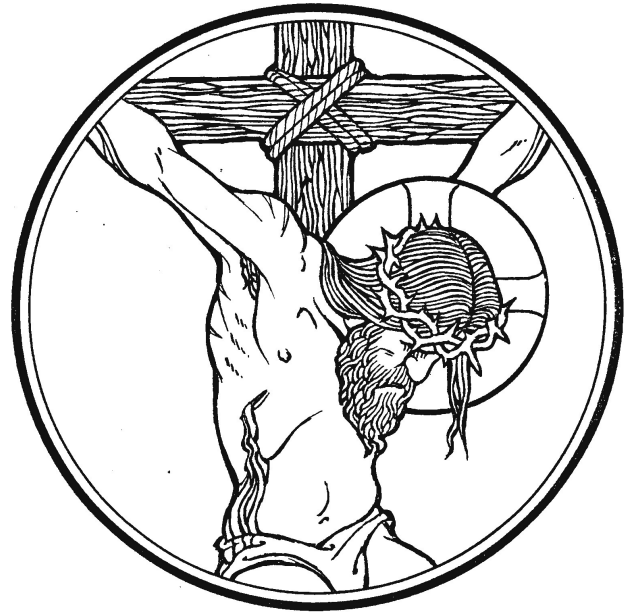
**Was it for crimes that I had done
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
and love beyond degree!**

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

**Thus might I hide my blushing face
while his dear cross appears,
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt my eyes to tears.**

**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.**

Hymn 410



CHRIST IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Luke 23:32-38

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." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The Gospel of Christ.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

Gracious Savior,

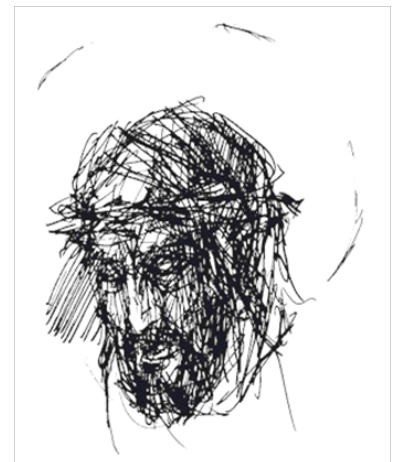
you did not strike back with revenge against your enemies as they ridiculed and crucified you, but prayed for their forgiveness. In your compassion, pardon us for our secret sins and sins we do not discern. Enlighten us to know and do your will. Amen.

The fourth candle is extinguished.

The congregation sings

**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 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.**

Hymn 407, st 1,3,4

CHRIST DIES

Matthew 27:45-54

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." 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. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him." And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. 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!"

The Gospel of Christ.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus,

you endured the horrific penalty of our sins as your Father turned his face from you on the cross. Compel us to see in your sacrifice the dreadful nature of sin and call us to acknowledge the amazing depth of your love. Overcome our shame, dear Savior, and give us grateful faith. Amen.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

The choir sings:

*Our cup was filled with darkness,
Our cup was filled with death.
Christ took our cup and drank it,
And gave us life,
And gave us hope,
Gave us Himself.*

*Refrain:
My Father, let this cup pass from me,
Yet not my will, O Lord,
But Thine be done.*

*In blackest night we hear Him
In dark Gethsemane.
Pleading with the Father*

*For one more way,
For one more hope,
For one more day.*

Refrain

*Then they took our Savior,
And led Him to a tree;
And there they broke His body,
Poured out His life,
Put Him to death –
To rise again!*

Refrain

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced." 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.

M: The Gospel of Christ.

C: **Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

Gracious Redeemer,

you paid the full price for our redemption and have released us forever from the hold of Satan, the power of sin, and the fear of death. Protect us from the devil's claim that we need to do more and from the accusation of our consciences that we have not done enough. Lead us to place our entire confidence in you and to live our lives secure in your grace. Amen.

The sixth candle is extinguished. The seventh candle is carried from the chancel as the congregation sings:



**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Your peace be with us, O Jesus!**

Hymn 947

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 Gospel of Christ.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Christ, friend of sinners, have mercy on us;
- Christ, Savior and Redeemer, have mercy on us;
- Christ, only hope of a fallen world, have mercy on us.

Open our eyes to see that we deserve the horror and misery that You suffered. But open our eyes to see that by Your death You destroyed death, by Your sacrifice You reconciled us with Your Father, and by the blood You shed You purchased us to belong to You forever.

Help us believe that we are worth that much to You. Fill us with peace and joy in believing that we are truly free from condemnation and fear, that we are truly and completely forgiven by Your Father. Help us to always see Your cross as a sign of life. Help us dedicate our lives in thankful love to You, who gave Yourself for us.

Hear us, O Lamb of God, who bore all sin for us. Amen.

Silence for meditation.

A loud noise (strepitus) representing the closing of Christ's tomb is heard, and the seventh candle returns to burn in the chancel.

The Cantor sings –

Lord, let at last your angels come; To Abram's bosom bear me home
That I may die unfearing. And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep Until your reappearing.
And then from death awaken me That my own eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, your glorious face, My Savior and my Fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise you without end.

THE 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.

The ministers exits the chancel.

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

We adore You, O Christ,
and we praise You. †
Because by Your holy
Cross You have redeemed the world

Please return for the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Sunrise
Festival of the Resurrection

Sunday 7:00 am
Sunday 8:00 and 10:15 am

Easter Breakfast
Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 9:00 am
Sunday 11:30 am

Man's maker was made man . . . that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey, that Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

- St. Augustine

And Can It Be? *by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite his grace;
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:

'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my
own.

Even Me? by Tanner Olson

How could it be?
That you would do this for me?

Even me?

Your back bloodied and body bruised.
Your hands pierced and love abused.
Your head ripped with thorns; kicked to the floor. I
can't imagine the pain you bore.
Swollen, somber and sore,
yet You refused.

You refused to run all so we could become
... All so we could become Yours.
You knew that through it all this was for something
more.

More than teaching and miracles.
More than water becoming wine.
More than sight for the blind.
More than could meet the eye.

This was to bring the dead alive.
This was to stomp death with resurrected breath.
This was for us to be washed white.
This was for us to be given hope and eternal life.

How could it be?
You died for me.
Even me.

