

# Good Friday

April 07, 2023

7:00 P.M.

## INVOCATION

P: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms... And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (John 14:1–3). And Jesus said to the thief on the cross beside him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43.

We begin in the name of Him who opens for us the doors of paradise:  
In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 53:1–5)

P: Who has believed what he has heard from us?

**C: And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

P: For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;

**C: he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.**

P: He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

**C: and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

P: Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;

**C: yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.**

P: But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;

**C: upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.**

**ANTHEM** “Behold, the Lamb of God” Adult Choir  
Feat. Eric & Mary Stake Directed by Marty Lintvedt

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: One of the thieves crucified near Jesus recognized the innocent King crowned with thorns. He acknowledged his sins and repented; moved by God’s grace he turned in faith to his Savior. Let us confess our sins and seek God’s mercy.

P: Almighty God,

**C: like the repentant thief crucified with our King, we admit our sins. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We have followed our own selfish desires instead of following your will for our lives. Listening to the temptations of the world around us, we turn from your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. “Jesus, remember [us] when you come into your kingdom.”**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Suffering on the cross, Jesus took onto himself the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. Like the repentant thief, we have received the grace and mercy of our King. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C Jesus was pierced for our transgressions, and with his wounds we are healed!**

**SONG OF PRAISE** “Worthy is the Lamb” (video)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, as by your grace the repentant thief recognized his King, you have graciously led us to acknowledge and worship Jesus as our King and Savior. On this holy day, we remember his sacrifice on the cross. By his death he destroyed the one who had the power of death, the devil, our accuser. Through faith in Christ our Lord and King, we receive forgiveness for our sins and from him we receive the promise of eternal life. Until the day when we walk with our King in paradise, teach us to live as citizens of his kingdom, reflecting his love and mercy to others so that they, too, might come to know and worship him as King. Hear our prayer and receive our praise in Jesus’ name. **C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT**    Isaiah 53:7-12 (Isaiah sees Jesus the suffering Savior)

P He 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. By 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? And 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. Yet 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. Out 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. Therefore 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE**    Hebrews 2:14-18    (Jesus took our flesh to save us)

P Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because He himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL**    Luke 23:39-43    (Paradise is open!)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter.  
**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, 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 sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” And He said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN No. 433**    “Glory Be to Jesus”

**Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood. From his sacred veins.**

**Grace and life eternal. In that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind.**

**Blest through endless ages. Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment. Did the world redeem.**

**Abel’s blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus. For our pardon cries.**

**Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.**

**Lift we then our voices, Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood.**

**SERMON**    “The Death that Leads to Paradise”    Pastor Vern

**OFFERING OF THANKFULNESS** (No collection will be taken tonight)

P: On the first Good Friday an offering was given to us; the death of God’s Son for the life of the world. A debt was paid that we could never repay; He took our sin and gave us His life. He took our condemnation and gave us Paradise. What better response can we give to Him in return for such grace, but to receive His gift to us with thanksgiving. For that reason let us respond to Him with an offering far more precious than gold or silver; that is, our very lives, our loyalty, and our love.

C: **By Your great mercy, O God, we present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to You, which is our spiritual worship. Help us by Your mercies not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, that by testing we may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Amen.**

**✠ A TENEBRAE SERVICE ✠**

(A Service of Darkness)

(Candles will be lit on the altar and then alternately be extinguished until the sanctuary is cloaked in darkness)

**HYMN No. 440** “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (vss. 1 & 6)

Jesus, I will ponder now  
On your holy Passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow  
For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
May the image cherish  
Of your suff’ring, pain, and death  
That I may not perish.

Graciously my faith renew;  
Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from you,  
Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give You love for love!  
Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav’n above  
Sing Your praise forever.

(The 1<sup>st</sup> candle is extinguished)

**PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH**

P: Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for your grace, your undeserved favor for sinners. By your death on the cross you have defeated death for us. Our sins are forgiven, washed away in your blood. Gracious Lord,

C: **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, on the cross you promised paradise to the repentant thief who died near you on that Good Friday. By the power of the Holy Spirit, grant us true repentance and forgive our sins. Be present with us until we live with you in paradise. Gracious Lord,

C: **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, you spoke in mercy to the thief and you forgave those who crucified you. We ask your mercy for those who suffer illness and loss. Comfort them and fill them with hope through the promises of your Word. Lead us to serve and help them in your name. Gracious Lord,

C: **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, as we study your Word and remember your sacrificial death, help us to grow in grace. We look forward to the day of resurrection and the sure hope of eternal life in paradise with you. Gracious Lord,

C: **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, the thief on the cross recognized you, crowned with thorns, as his King. We, too, recognize and acknowledge you as King. Help us to live as faithful citizens of your kingdom, to live in love and service to others and to be witnesses for you. Gracious Lord,

C: **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

P: Amen. (The 2<sup>nd</sup> candle is extinguished)

**HYMN No. 451** “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” (vss. 1 & 4)

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree!  
‘Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, ‘tis He, ‘tis He!  
He’s the long expected prophet, David’s son, yet David’s Lord.  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: He’s the true and faithful Word.**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> candle is extinguished)

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us in Your kingdom Lord, and teach us to pray saying:

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.** (4<sup>th</sup> candle to be extinguished)

(Pause)

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING OF THE LORD (from Isaiah 53:5 and 2 Corinthians 13:14)

P: He was pierced for our transgressions;

C: **He was crushed for our iniquities;** (The 5<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished)

P: Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C: **And with his wounds we are healed.**

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.** (the 6<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished)

**ANTHEM** "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" Adult Choir

The **Streptitus** is heard to symbolize the closing of Christ's tomb.  
(The Christ Candle is removed from the sanctuary  
but will be returned lit on the Day of the Resurrection)

The congregation leaves in silence.