

Good Friday Service

April 2, 2021



Pastor - Pastor Caroline Strand

Assisting Minister - Karen Lind

Greeting

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In the passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, following the horrors we have seen. But we stand in the promise of what is to come. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Good Friday Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus ELW #349

Text: Johann Heerman

Music: Johann Crüger

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The 22nd Psalm

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame. But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; "Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver-- let him rescue the one in whom he delights!" Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help...you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me...But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Good Friday Hymn #353

Were You There (vss.1,2,3)

Text and Music: African American spiritual

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Were you there? Really there? Did you hide yourself among the crowd during the trial of the Lord? The trial was unfair, biased, and degrading. Were you there when he was lashed? Did you hear the sound of the whip tearing into the Lord's skin on his back? Did you see the blood running down his face when the crown, fashioned from thorns,

was placed upon his head? Did you hear the denial and mockery and see the ridicule, the beating? Were you there?

**Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him.*

Were you there when he bore the weight of the heavy wooden cross on his back up the hill? Did you see him struggle after being beaten? Did you hear the moans as he labored, dragging this forsaken piece of wood, tearing the flesh on his shoulders? The weight of it must have been overwhelming, beyond bearing. Were you there?

**Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.*

Were you there? Did you hear the wooden mallet striking the spikes as his hands and feet were nailed to the cross? Did you hear the screams of agony as the nails tore through flesh and muscle? Were you there when the blood ran down his body as he hung, gasping for each breath of air? And still, he asked that those who betrayed him, those who crucified him, would be forgiven. "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Were you there?

**It is there they crucified him.*

Did you hear him tell the one on his right that he would be with him in Paradise today? He did not forget about the ones who were suffering, the lost, the criminal? Were you there?

**There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.*

Did you hear him speak to Mary, his mother, and John, his friend? “Woman, behold thy son! Behold, thy mother!” He was distancing himself from this earthly life, all the while concerned that his mother, now called woman, would be cared for by his friend, now considered the son of Mary? Were you there?

** Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

Were you there as he cried out his final words? “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?” Did you feel as he did – the pain of betrayal by his God? And still, in his humanity, he asked for something to drink. “I thirst.”

**When Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.*

And he knew it was over. “It is finished. Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” He breathed his last, exhaled his final weak and labored breath, and he was dead. They pierced in him in the side. Were you there?

**When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

His body was taken down from the cross and laid in the tomb. It is finished. Were you there?

**Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.⁴¹ Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid... they laid Jesus there.*

Yes, you were there. I was there. We are the ones who betrayed him and denied him. We are the ones who commit sins. He died because of our sins and we crucified him. He went to the cross for us. Yes, we crucified him. And now we wait...

The Christ candle is extinguished.

Good Friday Hymn #353

Were You There (vss. 4,5)

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All lights are extinguished.

Whispered 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 daily bread our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever.
Amen.

Depart in Silence

*All Gospel readings are from the 19th Chapter of John, NRSV