

Trinity Lutheran Church
Good Friday 2024- Tenebrae
The Old Rugged, Wooden Cross

AS WE GATHER

Since the altar is stripped and the paraments are gone, the wood of many altars, lecterns, and pulpits are fully exposed. Wood reminds you what took place on the tree of the cross, where your Lord once died. Jesus' cross brings peace, forgiveness, and salvation. By it, the lives of Christians are rescued, sweetened, and lightened. We reflect upon these familiar words of "The Old Rugged Cross" penned by American composer George Bennard in 1912:

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.

+ Preparation +

HYMN

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:5*

P For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,

C **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**

P But He was wounded for our transgressions;

C **He was crushed for our iniquities;**

P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C **and with His stripes we are healed.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Philippians 2:1–11*

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C **Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

P You reign over all things yet humbled Yourself for our salvation, suffering under God's wrath that was poured out upon You on the wooden cross.

C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

- C **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**
- P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was sacrificed upon the old rugged wooden cross so that we are rescued from our sins and given the peace that God alone can give. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

+ Word +

KYRIE

- P Lord, have mercy.
- C **Christ, have mercy.**
- P Lord, have mercy.

PSALM *Psalms 22:14–23*

- L I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint;
- C **My heart is like wax; it is melted within My breast;**
- L My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws;
- C **You lay Me in the dust of death.**
- L For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me;
- C **they have pierced My hands and feet—**
- L I can count all My bones—they stare and gloat over Me;
- C **they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.**
- L But You, O Lord, do not be far off! O You My help, come quickly to My aid!
- C **Deliver My soul from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog!**
- L Save Me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen!
- C **I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:**
- L You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,
- C **and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!**

GODS WORD *Colossians 2:13–15*

- L God's Word is from Colossians, the second chapter.
- ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

VIDEO "Why God?" by Austin French

MESSAGE

HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" LBW 107

+ The Seven Last Words +

We reflect through God's Words and song on the seven last words that Jesus spoke from the wooden cross.

WORD OF PARDON *Luke 23:33–34*

³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments.

HYMN "My Song is Love Unknown" LBW 94 vs 1-2
(candles out)

WORD OF PROMISE *Luke 23:39–42*

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

HYMN "My Song is Love Unknown" LBW 94 vs 3-4
(candles out)

WORD OF LOVE *John 19:25–27*

²⁵Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

VIDEO "Always Good"
(candles out)

WORD OF JUSTICE *Matthew 27:45–46*

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LBW 117 vs1
(candles out)

WORD OF TORMENT *John 19:28*

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

HYMN " "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LBW 117 vs 2
(candles out)

WORD OF TRIUMPH *John 19:30*

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LBW 117 vs3
(candles out)

WORD OF REST *Luke 23:46*

⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!" And having said this He breathed His last.

HYMN

“ O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” LBW 117 vs 4
(candles out)

LORD'S PRAYER (whispered by all)

Special Music:

“Were You There” vs 1-3

Christ Candle Removed

Christ Candle Returns (when song ends)

The Closing of the Book

To acknowledge that God's redemption is now complete. It is Finished!

All leave the Church building reverently in silence please.

The congregation departs in silent confidence, trusting that the light of Easter will soon scatter the darkness of Good Friday.