

# Good Friday

April 14, 2017

Noon

*Please enter and be seated in silence.*

## Call to Worship

Leader: Today is a day marked by human suffering.

People: **Today we read the scriptures and feel the feelings of the day Christ died.**

Leader: Suffering is not rational. It has no answer.

People: **But in the cross God meets us in our suffering.**

Leader: From this day forward we know that there is nowhere we can go where God is not with us.

People: **God, into your hands we commend our spirits.**

## Call to Confession

The promise of our faith is that if we call on the name of the Lord, our God will remember our sin no more. Therefore, let us confess our wrongdoing.

## Prayer of Confession

**Christ, at times we act as if we do not know you, at times we say of you, "Away with him!" When we think of those times we weep and ask you to forgive us. Amen.** [A time of silent confession]

## Declaration of Forgiveness

Take heart, for we have a high priest, Jesus Christ, the son of God, who understands our human experience and sympathizes with our weakness. He deals gently with the ignorant and the wayward and is the source of our eternal salvation.

## Prayer

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:27-60

## Reflection

*The Final Stone*

## Solemn Reproaches of the Cross

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Answer me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism,

**But we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

I led you through the desert for forty years, and fed you with manna. I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,

**But we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior,

**And we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst,

**And we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power,

**And we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me,

**And we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing,

**And we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder. I made you joint heirs with them but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,

**And we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me,

**And we have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

**Holy God,  
Holy and mighty,  
Holy immortal One,  
have mercy on us.**

*All depart in silence.*