

GOOD FRIDAY
"Behold, the Lamb of God"

AS WE GATHER

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John the Baptist spoke that prophetic phrase at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Today we see these words fulfilled, as we meditate on the death of the Son of God on our behalf. In his death, we have life.

HYMN "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

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.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view 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.

Pastor: He was despised and rejected by men;

People: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

Pastor: and as one from whom men hide their faces,

People: he was despised and we esteemed him not.

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

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

Pastor: But he was wounded for our transgressions,

People: he was bruised for our iniquities;

Pastor: upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,

People: and with his stripes we are healed.

Pastor: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;

People: and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Pastor: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

People: yet he opened not his mouth.

Pastor: By oppression and judgment he was taken away;

People: 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?

Pastor: And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death,

People: although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

+ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** +

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Hosea 6:1-6

(Even in death, there is the promise of life and renewal.)

“Come, let us return to the LORD;

for he has torn us, that he may heal us;

he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

After two days he will revive us;

on the third day he will raise us up,

that we may live before him.

Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;

his going out is sure as the dawn;

he will come to us as the showers,

as the spring rains that water the earth.”

What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.
Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have slain them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.
For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

[P] This is the Word of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL (Spoken responsively)

Pastor: [Christ] entered the Most Holy Place once for all

People: by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Pastor: He is the mediator of a new covenant,

People: that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Pastor: He provided redemption for his people;

People: he ordained his covenant forever.

EPISTLE Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 (Our great High Priest, Jesus, offered himself as the all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins.)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

[P] This is the Word of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

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.

Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.

Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?

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 PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN
John 18:1 – 19:42

Due to the length of this reading the text has been omitted from the bulletin.

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.

My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!

Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.

BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

People: Almighty and everlasting God, since you have revealed your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of his truth, keep, we ask you, in safety the works of your mercy so that your Church, spread throughout all nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve you in true faith and persevere in the confession of your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word and for all the people of God:

People: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all your servants in your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of his mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and throughout their lives remain faithful to Christ Jesus, our Lord:

People: Almighty God and Father, because you always grant growth to your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, recalling the new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom you adopt as your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

People: O merciful Father in heaven, because you hold in your hand all the might of man and because you have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray you graciously to regard your servants, especially the President and Congress of the United States, the Governor of this state, and all those who make, administer, and judge our Laws that all who receive the sword as your ministers may bear it according to your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that he would deliver the world from disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:

People: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of those who labor, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to you graciously come before you, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and his only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into his family, the Church:

People: Almighty and everlasting God, because you seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of you, free them from their error, and for the glory of your name bring them into the fellowship of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable to their salvation:

People: O almighty, everlasting God, through your only Son, our blessed Lord, you have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore you that by your gracious visitation all our enemies

may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and of one mind and heart with us and with your whole Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down his blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to his own goodwill:

People: O Lord, Father Almighty, by your Word you created and you still continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray you so to reveal to us your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, that he may dwell in our hearts and we may by your grace be made ready to receive your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and these things that pertain to our bodily need through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Finally let us pray for all these things for which our Lord would have us ask, praying:

**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**

Following the Lord's Prayer the service ends in silence.

Saint Paul's Easter Service begins Online and also in the Parking Lot at 10 a.m.

*If the Parking Lot Service needs to be canceled due to weather an announcement will be made
by 12 noon on Saturday.*