

GOOD FRIDAY

April 2, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Good Friday is a time of somber reflection as we approach the mystery of the cross. But the austerity of the Good Friday liturgy should not obscure the fact that this is a death we celebrate because of the life and forgiveness that flow from the cross for us and for our salvation. Because Good Friday is not an isolated event or day but part of God’s planned revelation of His love, we listen to the entire story of God’s work of salvation and deliverance. The message of the cross is the message of the Scriptures, planned by God, proclaimed by the prophets, and fulfilled in Christ. This liturgy continues what was begun on Holy Thursday and will not be complete until Easter Sunday adds its own message of hope and triumph.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We gather before God, remembering the cross in sorrow and in shame. We seek His forgiveness, strength, and mercy. We remember the day of our Savior’s death. We mourn and struggle to understand the depth of Christ’s love—that He should suffer and die in our place. Father, our hearts are heavy as we gather in the name of Christ, bearing witness to the terror of His crucifixion, knowing full well that we are guilty sinners, in need of Your forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Christ our Savior has died for our sins.

At times, we have failed to strive against evil in the world.

Christ our Savior has died for our sins.

At times, we have denied our Lord.

Christ our Savior has died for our sins.

At times, we have betrayed our Lord.

Christ our Savior has died for our sins. Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us forgiveness. Amen.

Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of our crucified Savior Jesus Christ, announce His grace and mercy to You. In His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer

death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 52:13–53:12*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

Let us pray. Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord’s passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

HYMN “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (St. 1) **#440**

READING *John 18:1-11* (Betrayal and arrest of Jesus)

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (St. 1) **#450**

READING *John 18:12-27* (Jesus before the high priest and the denial of Peter)

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (St. 2) **#450**

READING *John 18:28-40* (Jesus before Pilate)

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (St. 3) **#450**

READING *John 19:1-16a* (Jesus prepared for crucifixion)

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (St. 4) **#450**

READING *John 19:16b-24* (The crucifixion of Jesus)

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (St. 5) **#450**

READING *John 19:25-30* (Jesus’ mother and His death)

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (St. 6) **#450**

READING *John 19:31-37* (Jesus’ side is pierced)

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (St. 7) **#450**

NICENE CREED *(inside back cover of hymnal)*

HYMN OF THE DAY “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” **#438**

PREFACE 2 *Timothy 4:22*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD’S PRAYER *(inside back cover of hymnal)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “Upon the Cross Extended” **#453**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Let us pray. We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle” **#454**

READING *John 19:38-42* (Jesus’ burial)

(The pastor and congregation leave in silence.)