

Order of Service

Good Friday

April 10, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

AS WE GATHER – to worship on this holy day, we will read portions of the Psalms, Isaiah, and the Gospel of Matthew. At the completion of the service, take a moment of silence to remember this solemn occasion.

Opening Hymn: ELH 297 vs. 3, 4

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

**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's the Rock of our salvation,
His 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.**

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

C: (*spoken*) Amen.

P: We confess our sins and hear Christ's forgiveness in the hymn.

Hymn: ELH 496 vs. 1-3 (Tune ELH 453)

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

**Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From earth-born passions set me free
And make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, With many a care oppressed;
Let me Thy loving servant be And taste Thy promised rest.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery Be Thou my Health and Life.**

Sermon: John 19:28-30 *"I Thirst!"*

²⁸ After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!" Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit. (EHV)

[P: Pastor A: Assistant **C: Congregation]**

(If families are reading this service at home, you may take turns reading the different responses.)

PART 1: Forsaken by the Betrayer

Responsive Reading: (Psalm 55)

P: Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; Hear me and answer me.
My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught at the voice of the enemy, at the
stares of the wicked;

C: For they bring down suffering upon me and revile me in their anger.

P: My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me.

C: Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.

P: I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest---I
would flee far away and stay in the desert;

C: I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm."

P: If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself
against me, I could hide from him.

**C: But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with
whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the
house of God.**

Passion Reading: Matthew 26:20-25

(Jesus speaks the truth concerning the one who would betray Him.)

*A: When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And
while they were eating, he said,*

P: "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

A: They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other,

P: "Surely not I, Lord?"

*A: Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will
betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that*

man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.” Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said,

P: “Surely not I, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “Yes, it is you.”

P: Let us pray. Lord, you were forsaken by one of your own disciples, who betrayed you into the hands of sinful men. Never forsake me, O Lord. Send your Spirit that I, who have betrayed you by my sin, may yet keep hold of you, so that I may not forsake you.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Hymn: ELH 282 vs. 1, 3 (New Britain)

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?**

**Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!**

PART 2: Forsaken by His Disciples

Responsive Reading: (Psalm 31)

A: In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

C: Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

A: Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

C: Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.

A: Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth. . . Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.

C: My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

A: Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends---those who see me on the street flee from me.

C: I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.

A: But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Passion Reading: Matthew 26:31-56

(Jesus foretells Peter's denial, prays at Gethsemane, & is arrested.)

P: Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

A: Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

P: "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

A: Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

P: Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them,

A: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

P: He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,

A: "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

P: Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed,

A: *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."*

P: Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

A: *"Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."*

P: He went away a second time and prayed,

A: *"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."*

P: When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Then he returned to the disciples and said to them,

A: *"Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"*

P: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

A: *Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."*

P: Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

A: *"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"*

P: At that time Jesus said to the crowd,

A: *"Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to*

capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

P: Let us pray. Lord, you were forsaken by your disciples who deserted you and fled. When I am tempted to desert you, send your Spirit-given gift of faith, that I may hold fast to you, and never forsake you.

C: (spoken) Amen.

PART 3: Forsaken by His Own People

Responsive Reading: (Psalm 4)

P: Answer me when I call to You, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

C: How long, O men, will you turn My glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?

P: Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself; the Lord will hear when I call to Him.

C: In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

P: Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord.

C: Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

P: You have filled my heart with greater joy than when the grain and new wine abound.

C: I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Passion Reading: Matthew 26:59-66

(The chief priests bring false accusations against Christ.)

P: The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent.

A: The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

P: "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

A: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

P: "He is worthy of death," they answered.

A: Let us pray. Lord, your own people declared you guilty of blasphemy and sought your death. When we are tempted to take your name in vain, send us your Spirit, that we may resist the temptation, and ever hold fast to you.

C: (spoken) Amen.

PART 4: Forsaken by Peter

Responsive Reading: The Reproaches

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people!

C: Holy Lord God; holy and mighty God; holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

Hymn: ELH 41 vs. 1 *“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”*

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people!

C: Holy Lord God; holy and mighty God; holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

Congregation Response: ELH 41 vs. 2

**Lamb of God, pure and holy. Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could I have done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people!

C: Holy Lord God; holy and mighty God; holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

Congregation Response: ELH 41 vs. 3

**Lamb of God, pure and holy. Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

Passion Reading: Matthew 26:69-75

(In the face of seemingly relentless interrogation, Peter vehemently denies knowing Christ.)

A: Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him.

P: "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

A: But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

P: Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

A: He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

P: After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

A: Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

P: Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

P: Let us pray. Lord, You were denied even by Your own faithful disciple, Peter. When we deny You by our sinful actions, restore us in Your forgiving love, and never forsake us who so often forsake You.

C: (spoken) Amen.

PART 5: Forsaken by Pilate

Responsive Reading: (Psalm 17)

A: Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea; listen to my cry. Give ear to my prayer---it does not rise from deceitful lips.

C: May my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right.

A: My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

C: I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer.

A: Show the wonder of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes.

C: Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

A: They close up their callous hearts, and their mouths speak with arrogance. They have tracked me down, they now surround me, with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.

C: They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a great lion crouching in cover.

A: Rise up, O Lord, confront them, bring them down; rescue me from the wicked by your sword.

C: O Lord, by your hand save me from such men, from men of this world whose reward is in this life. You still the hunger of those you cherish; their sons have plenty, and they store up wealth for their children.

Passion Reading: Matthew 27:11-26

(Jesus is subjected to the injustice of the governing authorities.)

P: Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

A: *“Are you the king of the Jews?”*

P: “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

A: *When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.*

P: Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge — to the great amazement of the governor.

A: *Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them,*

P: “Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

A: *While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”*

P: But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

A: *“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered.*

P: “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked.

A: They all answered, “Crucify him!”

P: “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

A: *But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”*

P: When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was

starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

A: All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

P: Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

P: Let us pray. Lord, even the secular power of this world recognized your innocence, but you were forsaken to death. May we ever hold fast to you, Lord, even in the face of pressure from within and without, that we may not desert you.

C: (spoken) Amen.

PART 6: Forsaken at the Cross

Responsive Reading: (Isaiah 53)

P: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

C: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted.

P: But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

C: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

P: He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

C: By oppression and judgment He was taken away. He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was stricken.

P: He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

C: After the suffering of His soul, He will see the light of life and be satisfied.

P: By His knowledge my righteous Servant will justify many and He will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.

C: He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Passion Reading: Matthew 27:27-44

(Soldiers repeatedly shame and abuse Christ.)

P: Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

A: As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

P: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, on the cross you were taunted by those who crucified you, by those who stood by and watched, by those crucified with you. The world still taunts you and forsakes you; by your Spirit, let me look on your cross and find strength to witness boldly in your name.

C: (*spoken*) Amen.

Passion Reading: Matthew 27:45-54

(The infinite Christ confronts finite death.)

P: From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" — which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

A: When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

P: And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

A: When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Responsive Reading: (Psalm 22 and 69)

P: My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me? Why are you so far from saving Me, so far from the Words of My groaning? O My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

C: Save Me, O God, for the waters have come up to My neck. I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf Me.

P: I am worn out calling for help; My throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for My God. Those who hate Me without reason outnumber the hairs of My head; many are My enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy Me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal. You know My folly, O God; My guilt is not hidden from You.

C: May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of Me, O Lord, the Lord Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of Me, O God of Israel.

P: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all.

C: Christ became obedient for us unto death, Even the death of the cross!

Lords 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 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.

Good Friday Prayer:

P: Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy upon your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: ELH 304 vs. 1, 6 (Tune CW 587)

"Upon the Cross Extended"

Upon the cross extended, See, world, thy Lord suspended;

Thy Savior yields His breath.

The Prince of Life from heaven Himself hath freely given

To shame and blows and bitter death.

The load Thou takest on Thee, That pressed so sorely on me,

It crushed me to the ground.

The cross for me enduring, The crown for me securing,

My healing in Thy wounds is found.

(A moment of silence.)