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**GOOD FRIDAY**

**April 10, 2020**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

It seems strange to call this day “good.” After all, on this day, Jesus, our Savior and Lord, was tortured, beaten, spit upon, and brutally crucified on a cross. What is good about that? Actually, the goodness of this day is extensive and amazing. At the cross, God’s plan to redeem the world came to full fruition. Rather than ignore our sin, pretend it away, or eternally turn away from us, God became one of us, and in an act of pure self-sacrifice and love, Jesus willingly suffered the worst. For you. For me. For the world. Ours is not a God who says to us, “If you obey Me well enough, then I might love you.” Our God says to us at the outset, “I love you. I willingly gave My life for yours. If you want to see the extent of My love, look to the cross. Let My love draw you to hear and obey Me.” So today’s service is not a funeral for Jesus. It is a way to remember the events of Jesus’ death—including the allusions to it already in the Old Testament. It is an occasion for us to be drawn closer in love to the God who loves us unconditionally. It is an occasion to weep over our sin that made the crucifixion of Jesus necessary. It is an occasion to rejoice in the forgiveness and peace that comes from putting our faith in our crucified Lord. It is an occasion to marvel at the breadth, height, and depth of God’s love for us. Yes, it is Good Friday.

**INTROIT** *Psalm 38:1–4, 18, 22*

Pastor: He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;

**People: upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.**

Pastor: O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger,

**People: nor discipline me in Your wrath!**

Pastor: For Your arrows have sunk into me,

**People: and Your hand has come down on me.**

Pastor: There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation;

**People: there is no health in my bones because of my sin.**

Pastor: For my iniquities have gone over my head;

**People: like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.**

Pastor: I confess my iniquity;

**People: I am sorry for my sin.**

Pastor: Make haste to help me,

**People: O Lord, my salvation!**

Pastor: He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;

**People: upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.**

**HYMN** “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” [*LSB* 451]

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**✠ SERVICE OF TENEBRAE ✠**

**KYRIE**

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us;**

**Christ, have mercy upon us;  
 Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**PASSION READING** *John 19:1–16* (Jesus is sentenced to crucifixion.)

Pastor: Far be it from me to boast

**People: except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *Galatians 6:14*

Pastor: Gracious God, we receive Your free forgiveness as we acknowledge and confess our sins. Do not let us inherit the punishments our sins deserve, but rather absolve us for Jesus’ sake, and grant us grace always to serve You with love that flows out from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” [St. 1: *LSB* 450] *(The first candle is extinguished.)*

1 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.

**KYRIE**

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us;**

**Christ, have mercy upon us;**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**PASSION READING** *John 19:17–22* (Jesus is taken away for execution.)

Pastor: Glory to Jesus Christ. Glory forever.

**People: By Your death and crucifixion You have rescued all people.**

Pastor: Gracious God, You know all the paths of our lives, how we walk among dangers of many kinds. Send Your Holy Spirit to go with us, that we may draw strength for every trial from Your abiding presence both now and forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” [St. 2: *LSB* 450] *(The second candle is extinguished.)*

2 How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!  
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!  
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;  
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

**KYRIE**

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us;**

**Christ, have mercy upon us;  
 Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**PASSION READING** *John 19:23–24* (Soldiers cast lots for Jesus’ garments.)

Pastor: In humility we adore You, Lord Jesus, and we declare Your ransoming love.

**People: Not with gold or silver, but with Your precious blood, have You ransomed us.**

Pastor: Gracious God, in Your tender love for humanity, You sent Your only Son Jesus to be our Savior by becoming one of us, by living and serving among us, and by pouring out His precious blood on the cross for us, that through faith in His name we might be ransomed from the sentence of death, which lay upon us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” [St. 3: *LSB* 450] *(The third candle is extinguished.)*

3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners’ gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! ’Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.

**KYRIE**

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us;**

**Christ, have mercy upon us;  
 Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**PASSION READING** *John 19:25–27* (Jesus on the cross cares for His mother.)

Pastor: For our sake the Lord Jesus became obedient unto death; even death on a cross.

**People: By this one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.** *Romans 5:19*

Pastor: Gracious God, even as He hung dying on the cross, Jesus was concerned for the practical well-being of His mother. Grant that we may humbly follow His example of loving and serving people in need, even when it costs us to do so; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” [St. 4: *LSB* 450] *(The fourth candle is extinguished.)*

4 My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.  
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.

Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love;

Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav’nly joys above.

**KYRIE**

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us;**

**Christ, have mercy upon us;  
 Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**PASSION READING** *John 19:28–30* (Jesus dies on the cross.)

Pastor: Jesus has become the mediator of a new covenant.

**People: His sprinkled blood speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.** *Hebrews 12:24*

Pastor: Gracious God, in Jesus’s Passion, You transformed an instrument of torture and death into the means of life and peace for all people. Transform us as well that in denying ourselves, taking up our own crosses, and following Jesus, all suffering may become for us a path into love and joy, life and hope, forgiveness and grace, to be shared with others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” [St. 5: *LSB* 450] *(The fifth candle is extinguished.)*

5 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.

**KYRIE**

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us;**

**Christ, have mercy upon us;  
 Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**PASSION READING** *John 19:31–37* (Jesus’ side is pierced.)

Pastor: He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth;

**People: and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.** *Isaiah 53:6–7*

Pastor: Gracious God, who in the person of Christ Jesus was wounded on the cross that You might rescue us from the power of the devil, help us to remember and thank You for Jesus’ Passion through which we are reconciled with You, receive the forgiveness of sins, and are rescued from unending death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” [Sts. 6–7: *LSB* 450] *(The sixth candle is extinguished.)*

6 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!

7 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.

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**KYRIE**

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us;**

**Christ, have mercy upon us;  
 Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**PASSION READING** *John 19:38–42* (Jesus is buried.)

Pastor: You will not abandon my soul to the grave,

**People: or let Your Holy One see corruption.** *Psalm 16:10*

Pastor: Gracious God, abide with us and all Your people for the evening is at hand, and the day is past. Abide with us at the end of this day, at the end of our life, and at the end of all things. Abide with us with Your love and goodness, with Your Holy Word and Sacraments, with the presence of Your Holy Spirit, and with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the shadow of affliction and temptation overcomes us. Abide with us under the shadow of fear and despair when death comes. Abide with us and with all Your people through the end of time and throughout all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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 on 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.

**People: Amen.**

*(The Paschal Candle is removed and taken from the chancel.)*

**HOMILY**

**CLOSING HYMN** “Were You There” [*LSB* 456]

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
    Oh . . .  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
    Oh . . .  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
    Oh . . .  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?  
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?  
    Oh . . .  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

**STREPITUS** (The stone is rolled in front of the tomb.)

**PARTING**

(There is no Benediction. Service ends in silence.)