

St. James/Friedens/Christ's United Lutheran Churches

Pitman/Hegins/Ashland

Good Friday ✕ April 10, 2020

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on 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.**

THE LESSON: HOSEA 6:1-6

“Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. ²After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

⁴What 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 away early. ⁵Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Silence for prayer and meditation follows the reading.

HYMN “BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS”

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN 19:16B-30

¹⁶Then (Pilate) handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ²²Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves,

and for my clothing they cast lots.”²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.”²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.”²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Silence for prayer and meditation follows the reading.

SERMON

Pastor Mark E. Swanson

HYMN “WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS”

THE BIDDING PRAYER

A: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Let us pray for...

Francis, the Bishop of Rome;

Bartholomew, the Patriarch of Constantinople;

Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury;

Olav, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches;

James, President and General Secretary of the
National Council of Churches;

Martin, the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation;

Elizabeth and Samuel, our bishops; David, our dean; and

Mark and Laura, our pastors;

for theologians and teachers;

for missionaries and evangelists;

for all in holy orders;

for deacons and deaconesses;

for seminarians and those preparing for ordination;

for artists and musicians;

for all servants of the Church;

for all the baptized of every time and place;

and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastors and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Let us pray for those preparing for Baptism, that God make them responsive to his love, and give them new life in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for Baptism. Give them a new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in one Church all those who know Christ as LORD.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give your Church its unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our Baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the Word of God, that they may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity. Hear the prayers of your Church that the people you first made your own may arrive with us at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find him who is the author and goal of our existence.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, they may all recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, and disease.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our LORD. **Amen**

A: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our LORD would have us ask.

C: 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

The rough-hewn cross is carried in procession and placed in front of the altar. The versicle and response is sung three times.



Be - hold, the life - giv - ing cross,
on which was hung the sal - va - tion of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us wor - ship him.

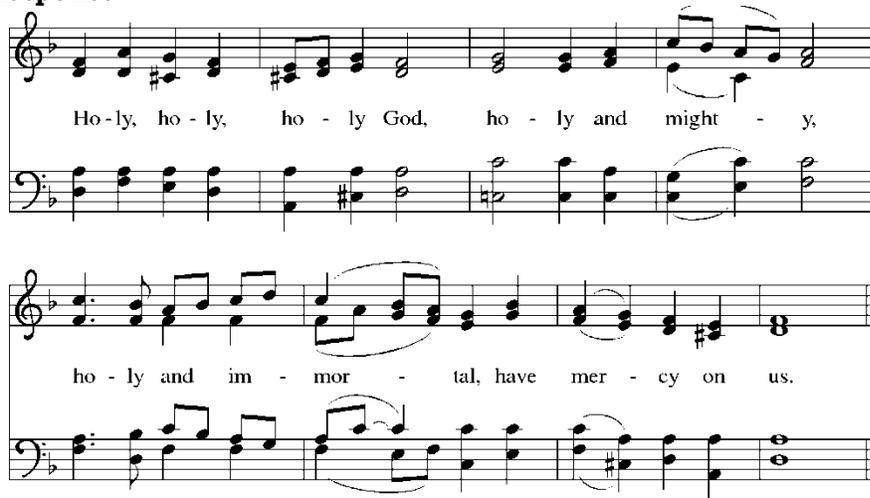
Silence is kept for meditation on the mystery of the crucified Savior, the mystery of redemption. The congregation may kneel at the altar rail during the chanting of the Solemn Reproaches.

SOLEMN REPROACHES

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

Response



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. Forty years I led you through the desert feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me. I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

P: O my people, O my Church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, 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 you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response

HYMN *“SING, MY TONGUE”*

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| 1 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;
tell the triumph far and wide;
tell aloud the wondrous story of the cross, the Crucified;
tell how Christ, the world's redeemer,
vanquished death the day he died. | 3 Tell how, when at length the fullness
of th'appointed time was come,
Christ, the Word, was born of woman,
left for us the heav'nly home,
blazed the path of true obedience,
shone as light amidst the gloom. | 5 Bend your boughs, O tree of glory,
your relaxing sinews bend;
for a while the ancient rigor
that your birth bestowed, suspend;
and the Lord of heav'nly beauty
gently on your arms extend. |
| 2 God in mercy saw us fallen,
sunk in shame and misery,
felled to death in Eden's garden,
where in pride we claimed the tree;
then another tree was chosen,
which the world from death would free. | 4 Thirty years among us dwelling,
Jesus went from Nazareth,
destined, dedicated, willing,
did his work, and met his death;
like a lamb he humbly yielded
on the cross his dying breath. | 6 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
be for all the noblest tree;
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit your equal be;
symbol of the world's redemption,
for your burden makes us free. |
| | | 7 Unto God be praise and glory;
to the Father and the Son,
to th'eternal Spirit honor
now and evermore be done;
praise and glory in the highest,
while the timeless ages run.
Amen. |

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530-609; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

When the hymn ends, the verse is spoken:

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

There is no benediction. Worshipers may remain for prayer and meditation and then should leave in silence. You may place your offering in the plate as you exit.



Along with Maundy Thursday and Holy Saturday, Good Friday is part of the three holy days known as the “Triduum.” With Easter, Good Friday is the holiest day in the Christian year. It is on this day that Christ died on the cross, forgiving our sins, and winning for us eternal life.

In keeping with the solemn nature of this holy day, the altar is left bare of paraments, linens, and ornaments; they are not used at this service. The chancel, having been stripped on Maundy Thursday, is left bare until it is dressed for the Great Vigil of Easter.

GOOD FRIDAY

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ’s life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. The sung reproaches remind us of our sin and complicity in the death of Christ, our Savior. Today’s liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening.