

Good Friday
Mar 29, 2024



Public Domain. Léon Bonnat: Christ on the Cross circa 1874

North East Lutheran Parish SK

GOOD FRIDAY

What is there to celebrate? Why is today good? In Old English, the word *good* meant “sacred” or “holy”—so it would be proper to refer to this day as “Holy Friday.” And yet the great goodness of God in Jesus Christ is most fully on display at the cross. Without the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, our Lord, on this day, there would be no basis for His glorious resurrection in three days. Today is the good day that leads us to the great day of Easter yet to come!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 124:8*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,
People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
People: **who made heaven and earth.**

HYMN # 445 – When You Woke That Thursday Morning

Pastor: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

People: **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

People: **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Pastor: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Stripping of the Altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the hands of those who crucified Him.

Order of removal:

Altar Candles are extinguished

Communion Ware and Linens

Altar Candles

Missal stand with Service Book

Altar Linens and Paraments.

As Altar is stripped, we hear the reading from Isaiah

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

Isaiah 52:13-15; 53

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—

his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

53 Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
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?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

SERMON

HYMN #451 – Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

*During the hymn 6 candles are placed in the chancel and lit for the
Tenebrae Service*

We Pray:

**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**

TENEBRAE SEQUENCE

[An acolyte should extinguish the candles as indicated. As the candles are extinguished, the lights in the church may be dimmed gradually. As the last candle is removed from the altar area, all the lights in the church should be turned off. After the last candle has returned, enough light should be turned on to allow people to leave the sanctuary in safety.]

FIRST WORD *John 19:14–16a; Luke 23:32–34a*

Lector: Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Pastor: We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.

Pastor: God forbid that I should glory

People: except in the cross of our Lord, Jesus.

Pastor: Almighty God, Your dear Son, our Lord, did not go up to joy before first He suffered pain; He did not enter into glory before He was crucified. Mercifully

grant that we in faith may walk the way of His cross
and find in it the way of life and peace; through
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN # 456 – Were You There vs 1

The first candle is extinguished.

SECOND WORD *Luke 23:35–43*

Lector: And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” There was also an inscription over Him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” And He said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Pastor: We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: **By Your cross and precious death, You have
redeemed the world.**

Pastor: Surely He has borne out griefs

People: **and carried our sorrows.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, while You hung on the cross, You showed mercy to the dying thief. With that mercy, look on us also, we pray, and at our last hour, comfort us with Your promise that we will dwell forever in paradise with You.

People: **Amen.**

The second candle is extinguished.

THIRD WORD *John 19:25–27*

Lector: Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Pastor: We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: **By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: Bind us to one another with bonds of charity and love

People: **that we ever reflect the great and sacrificial love that You have showed to us through Your suffering, pain, and death on the cross.**

HYMN # 456 – Were You There vs 2

Pastor: O God, You know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature, we cannot always stand upright. Grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The third candle is extinguished.

FOURTH WORD *Matthew 27:45–47*

Lector: Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.”

Pastor: We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: **By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world**

Pastor: Keep us mindful of Your abiding presence with us

People: **that our witness to the love You have shown us may never falter or fail.**

Pastor: Grant, we pray, merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and peace. Cleanse us from all our sins, that we may serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The fourth candle is extinguished.

FIFTH WORD *Matthew 10:38–42, John 19:28–29*

Lector: [Jesus said to His disciples,] “Whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. “Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will

receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth.

Pastor: We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: **By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: Grant us peace and patience under all trials.

People: **Keep us mindful of the great sacrifice You willingly made for us to pay the price of our sins.**

HYMN # 456 – Were You There vs 3

Pastor: O God, for our redemption, You gave Your only Son to die the death of the cross, and by His resurrection, You have delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant us so to die daily to sin that we may evermore live with Him in the joy of His resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The fifth candle is extinguished.

SIXTH WORD *Hebrews 9:11–12, 15, 27–28; John 19:30a*

Lector: But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this

creation) He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished.”

Pastor: We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.

Pastor: Help us begin all our works of charity and love in Your name

People: and find Your blessing in their completion to Your glory.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You set the boundaries of our lives and grant us tasks to do in Your name. In Your great love, You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your Father. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, lead us to complete all You intend for us to do in this world until that time when we share in Your eternal presence in the world to come.

People: Amen.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

SEVENTH WORD *Luke 23:44–46; Matthew 27:54*

Lector: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!" And having said this He breathed his last.

Pause for meditation.

Lector: When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Pastor: We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.

Pastor: Preserve and defend us, gracious Lord,

People: so that when our last hour comes, we may know Your abiding care.

HYMN # 456 – Were You There vs 4

Pastor: Almighty God, we ask You to look with mercy on Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given over to the hands of sinful men to suffer death on the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

A rough-hewn cross may be carried in procession through the church and/or placed in front of or near the altar.

Pastor: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

People: O come, let us worship Him.

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The final candle is taken out of the sanctuary as the lights are completely turned off. After a brief time, a loud noise (strepitus) symbolizes the closing of the tomb, the earthquake at the time of Christ's death, and the "closing of the book" on Jesus' sacrifice. After the loud noise, the candle is returned to its place at the altar, symbolizing that our redemption is complete.

The congregation leaves the church in silence.