

Good Friday



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 Psalm 22

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my
groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴ In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸ "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹ Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

¹² Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³ they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water,

and all my bones are out of joint;
 my heart is like wax;
 it is melted within my breast;
¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
 and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
 you lay me in the dust of death.
¹⁶ For dogs encompass me;
 a company of evildoers encircles me;
 they have pierced my hands and feet—
¹⁷ I can count all my bones—
 they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸ they divide my garments among them,
 and for my clothing they cast lots.
¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
 O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword,
 my precious life from the power of the dog!
²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion!
 You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
²² I will tell of your name to my brothers;
 in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
 All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
 and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred
 the affliction of the afflicted,
 and he has not hidden his face from him,
 but has heard, when he cried to him.
²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
 my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
 those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
 May your hearts live forever!
²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
 and turn to the LORD,
 and all the families of the nations
 shall worship before you.
²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD,
 and he rules over the nations.
²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰ Posterity shall serve him;

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

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.

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

People: O come, let us worship Him.

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

People: O come, let us worship Him.

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.