

"Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit"
March 29, 2024
Good Friday

Good Friday is to be a time of reflection on the suffering and death of our Savior. It is appropriate to hold our Good Friday service in the afternoon, for this is a reminder of that day when Christ agonized on Calvary. The altar is stripped of all sacred objects; the offering is received at the door of the church as we depart. At the end of the service please leave in silence to consider the depth of God's love and the price paid for our sins. Please note that the congregation will read the words that are in bold.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

THE SERVICE OF SEVEN WORDS

M: Today's service focuses on the seven recorded "words" or sayings of Jesus as He suffered and died on the cross. In our Savior's words we are reminded of His great love for us sinners, the great price He paid on our behalf, and that He has fulfilled every prophecy and met every requirement to accomplish our salvation. A short prayer and hymn verse will follow the reading of each of the Lord's "words" from the cross. Let us ponder the words of our suffering Savior.

OPENING HYMN #125....."When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Please stand.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.....Isaiah 53 (read responsively)

M: Who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

C: He grew up before him like a tender shoot and like a root from dry ground. He had no attractiveness and no majesty. When we saw him, nothing about his appearance made us desire him.

M: He was despised and rejected by men, a man who knew grief, who was well acquainted with suffering. Like someone whom people cannot bear to look at, he was despised, and we thought nothing of him.

C: Surely he was taking up our weaknesses, and he was carrying our sufferings. We thought it was because of God that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted, but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced. He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

M: We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has charged all our guilt to him.

C: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers, he did not open his mouth.

M: He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice, and of his generation, who even cared? So, he was cut off from the land of the living. He was struck because of the rebellion of my people.

C: They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked, but he was given a grave with the rich in his death, because he had done no violence, and no deceit was in his mouth.

M: Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and to allow him to suffer. Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring. He will prolong his days, and the Lord’s gracious plan will succeed in his hand.

C: After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life. He will provide satisfaction. Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many, for he himself carried their guilt.

M: Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great, and with the strong he will share plunder, because he poured out his life to death, and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners.

C: He himself carried the sin of many, and he intercedes for the rebels.

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

M: Let us pray.

C: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST WORD.....LUKE 23:26-34

Father, forgive them.

26 As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A large crowd of people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. 28 Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.’ 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ 31 For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?”

32 Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed.

33 When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” They cast lots to divide his garments among them.

C: Heavenly Father, your Son called upon you to forgive his enemies because they did not realize that they were putting their Lord to death. We also have often been ignorant of how our sins have contributed to our Savior’s suffering and death. Forgive us also for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

Hymn #117 (vs 1, 3, 6).....“O Dearest Jesus”

1 O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession--
What dark transgression?

3 Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
This I do merit.

6 I'll think upon your mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do your will shall be my sole endeavor
Henceforth forever.

THE SECOND WORD.....LUKE 23:38-43

Today you will be with me in paradise.

There was also an inscription written above him: "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? 41 We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me [a] when you come in [b] your kingdom."

43 Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise."

C: Heavenly Father, your Son comforted the thief on the cross, assuring him that on that very day he would be with Jesus in heaven. Comfort us also with the assurance that, because Christ has conquered death through his cross, the moment of our own death has become the entrance to life eternal in paradise with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #105 (vs 1, 2, 7)....."O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

1 O sacred head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded,
With thorns your only crown,
O sacred head, no glory
Now from your face does shine;
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call you mine.

2 Men mock and taunt and jeer you,
They smite your countenance,
Though mighty worlds shall fear you
And flee before your glance.
How pale you are with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
Your eyes with pain now languish
That once were bright as morn!

7 Lord, be my consolation,
My shield when I must die;
Remind me of your passion
When my last hour draws night.
My eyes will then behold you,
Upon your cross will dwell;
My heart will then enfold you—
Who dies in faith dies well!

THE THIRD WORD.....JOHN 19:25-27

Woman, here is your son! ... Here is your mother!

Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

C: Heavenly Father, in the midst of his terrible suffering, your Son honored his earthly mother by placing her needs ahead of his own. We thank you for the perfect love Jesus demonstrated in our place. Help us to treasure those in our own families and provide for their needs. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for the times we have failed to honor our father and mother or care for our children. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to give glory to you in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn #113 (vs 1, 5)....."Upon the Cross Extended"

1 Upon the cross extended,
See, world, your Lord suspended;
Your Savior yields his breath.
The Prince of life from heaven
Himself has freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.

5 Your cords of love, my Savior,
Bind me to you forever;
I am no longer mine.
To you I gladly tender
All that my life can render
And all I have to you resign.

THE FOURTH WORD.....MATTHEW 27:45-49

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

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. 46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "This fellow is calling for Elijah."

48 Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. 49 The rest said, "Leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

C: Heavenly Father, your Son suffered what we deserve: the very pains of hell. We are humbled at His great love for us that would willingly endure the darkness of being outside of your gracious presence. We also are relieved to know that, because Christ Jesus endured this painful separation from you, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will separate us from your love for us in Christ. We praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #137 (vs 1-3)....."Oh, Darkest Woe"

1 Oh, darkest woe!
O tears, forth flow!
Has earth so sad a wonder?
God the Father's only Son
Now is buried yonder.

2 Oh, sorrow dread!
God's Son is dead!
But by his expiation
Of our guilt upon the cross
Gained for us salvation.

3 Lo, stained with blood,
The Lamb of God,
The Bridegroom, lies before you,
Pouring out his life that he
May to life restore you.

THE FIFTH WORD.....JOHN 19:28-29

I thirst.

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.

C: Heavenly Father, when it came to our salvation, your Son left no prophecy of Scripture undone. We marvel at how Jesus, in his final moments, even fulfilled the words of Scripture with his thirst. Help us remember that Jesus bore all our infirmities and the guilt of our sins not just as a man, but as true God, and that His blood purifies us from all unrighteousness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #320....."On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Have no pow'r to hide your face.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation.

THE SIXTH WORD.....JOHN 19:30

It is finished!

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!"

C: Heavenly Father, when all was fulfilled, the words of your Son rang out from the cross. When the guilt of our sins troubles us, let those words, "It is finished," ring out in our hearts and minds. Assure us that we stand before you as holy and righteous because your Son has paid the full ransom price for all of our sins. Give us peace in the proclamation of your full and free forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choir....."It Is Finished"

THE SEVENTH WORD.....LUKE 23:44-46

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" When he had said this, he breathed his last.

C: Heavenly Father, as true man and true God, your Son laid down his life of his own free will, committing his spirit into your almighty hands. When death draws near, keep us from the temptations of the evil one, and help us to entrust our own souls into your loving, almighty care, awaiting your welcome into our home on high, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #139....."Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

1 Jesus, in your dying woes, Even while your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for your foes: Hear us, holy Jesus!

2 Jesus, pitying the sighs Of the thief who near you dies,
Promising him paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus!

3 Jesus, loving to the end Her whose heart your sorrows rend,
And your dearest human friend: Hear us, holy Jesus!

4 Jesus, plunged in depths unknown With our evil foe alone,
While no light from heav'n is shown: Hear us, holy Jesus!

5 Jesus, in your thirst and pain, While your wounds the lifeblood drain,
Thus fulfilling Scripture's plan: Hear us, holy Jesus!

6 Jesus, all our ransom paid, All your Father's will obeyed,
By your suff'rings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus!

7 Jesus, all your labor vast, All your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.

SERMON.....Pastor Piet Van Kampen.....“Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit!”

Luke 23:46

46 Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

PRAYER

M: We thank you, Lord God the Father, that You have given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have borne in your sacred body all our sins, and by your blood have blotted out all our transgressions. We thank you, Lord, the Holy Spirit, that you have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. O God, grant us your grace, that we may believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by your Holy Spirit, that, in the power of our Redeemer’s death, we may day by day put off sin, and never forsake our Lord Jesus Christ, until we see him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ’s name.

C: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: 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 SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

After you are dismissed from receiving the Lord’s Supper, you are invited to leave in silence. Please take a moment to fill out a Worship Participation/Communion registration card. You can place it into the offering plate at the door, along with your Good Friday offering, as you leave.

Easter Worship – 8:30AM & 10:30AM

Attendance

If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org, and in the subject line write "Attended" and after that the number of people who watched from your home. So if three of you watch the service on Sunday, your subject line would say, "Attended 3". Please don't write anything in the text of the email, since our secretary, Anna Poellet, will not be responding to emails that say "Attended" in the subject line. Thanks.

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