

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7, 2023

THE OLD RUGGED, WOODEN CROSS

We enter the sanctuary in silence, and we pray silently.

Since the altar is stripped and the paraments are gone, the wood of many altars, lecterns, and pulpits are fully exposed. Wood reminds you what took place on the tree of the cross, where your Lord once died. Jesus' cross brings peace, forgiveness, and salvation. By it, the lives of Christians are rescued, sweetened, and lightened. We reflect upon these familiar words of "The Old Rugged Cross" penned by American composer George Bennard in 1912:

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

CHOIR ANTHEM "With His Strips we are Healed"

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

THE OPENING HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
(LSB 426)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5*

- P** For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
C **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**
- P** But He was wounded for our transgressions;
C **He was crushed for our iniquities;**
P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
C **and with His stripes we are healed.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Philipians 2:1–11*

- P** Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

- P** With humble hearts, let us pray together:
C **Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**
- P** You reign over all things yet humbled Yourself for our salvation, suffering under God's wrath that was poured out upon You on the wooden cross.
C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**
- P** to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.
C **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was sacrificed upon the old rugged wooden cross

so that we may be rescued from our sins and given the peace that God alone can give. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

A HYMN: “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”
(LSB 454)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Prelude”

THE PSALM

Psalm 22:14–23

P I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint;

C **My heart is like wax; it is melted within My breast;**

P My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws;

C **You lay Me in the dust of death.**

P For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me;

C **they have pierced My hands and feet—**

P I can count all My bones—they stare and gloat over Me;

C **they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.**

- P** But You, O LORD, do not be far off! O You My help, come quickly to My aid!
- C** **Deliver My soul from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog!**
- P** Save Me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen!
- C** **I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:**
- P** You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,
- C** **and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!**

A HYMN: “O Perfect Life of Love” (*LSB 452:1-2, 4-5*)

AN EPISTLE READING *Colossians 2:13–15*

- P** The Epistle is from Colossians, the second chapter.

¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE (Spoken by all) *Joel 2:13b*

Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

We reflect on the seven last words that Jesus spoke from the wooden cross.

WORD OF PARDON*Luke 23:33–34*

³³And 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. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide His garments.

A HYMN“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (*LSB 440:1–2, 5*)**WORD OF PROMISE***Luke 23:39–42*

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

A HYMN“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (*LSB 449*)**A WORD OF LOVE***John 19:25–27*

²⁵Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

A HYMN“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” (*LSB 451:1–2*)

WORD OF JUSTICE*Matthew 27:45–46*

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And 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?”

A HYMN “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” (*LSB* 451:3–4)

WORD OF TORMENT*John 19:28*

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”

A HYMN “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” (*LSB* 439:1–2)

WORD OF TRIUMPH*John 19:30*

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

A HYMN “Were You There” (*LSB* 456:1–2)

WORD OF REST*Luke 23:46*

⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!” And having said this He breathed His last.

A HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:19–21)

SERMON**OFFERING**

HYMN:

“My Song Is Love Unknown” (LSB 430)

THE GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

- P** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You gather us together at the foot of Your Son’s wooden cross, that we may join with the eyewitnesses of His death and behold His all-sufficient sacrifice for our redemption.
- C** **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**
- P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus’ great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C** **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P** Lord Jesus, grant that on this Friday that we call “good,” the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us may draw us closer to You.
- C** **Encourage our hearts and minds as we hold fast to Your Word, knowing that all You accomplished upon Calvary’s cross was done for our salvation.**
- P** Holy Spirit, You unite us by Baptism to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Help us to know the power of sharing in His death so that with Him we may partake in His resurrection.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

A HYMN:

“The Power of the Cross” (Getty)

Verse 1

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood

Chorus 1

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Verse 2

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow (Chorus 1)

Verse 3

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry (Chorus 1)

Verse 4

Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suff'ring I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love (Chorus 2)

Chorus 2

This the pow'r of the cross
Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross

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Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

The congregation departs in silent confidence, trusting that the light of Easter will soon scatter the darkness of Good Friday.

For your reflection:

Psalm 22 (ESV)

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!

***We will see you for Easter Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m.
and Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.***