

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 29, 2024

BE GRACIOUS TO ME!

AS WE GATHER

Nothing could be more natural than seeking revenge against one who has wronged you. Even the youngest child's untrained sense of fairness demands payback. God's children, however, are not to submit to human thinking but to the Word of God. What do the Scriptures say about our desire for revenge? When King David's enemies rose against him, the Holy Spirit inspired him to pray in Psalm 41:10, "*But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!*" David prays for vengeance, and God ordains vengeance. Yet the Scriptures also tell us not to "*resist the one who is evil*" (Matthew 5:39). What are we to make of this paradox? As with all matters of the faith, we must look to our Lord's crucifixion for the answer. For only by the cross is God gracious to you; only at the cross does He demand payment for every injustice.

The lighting is subdued in the worship space; the pastor enters in silence.

+ PREPARATION +

PRAYER

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.

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Philippians 2:8–9; Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a, adapted*

- P** Christ Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- C** Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.
- P** Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,
- C** thus securing an eternal redemption.
- P** Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,
- C** so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Confident of His redeeming love, let us confess our sins to our gracious God.
- C** Almighty God, we confess that we are sinful by nature and through our words, thoughts, and deeds. Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. As you believe, so let it be. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

+ WORD +

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God, You spared not Your only-begotten Son but gave Him unto death on the cross. Grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses, we may be delivered from all evil. Bring to our remembrance all that our Savior has done for us. Strengthen us to carry our burdens and to endure our sufferings as we, in faith, follow His holy example, always giving thanks to You for Your graciousness to us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

REPROACHES

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.
- C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 449)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second and fifty-third chapters.

¹³Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴As many were astonished at you— His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—¹⁵so 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. ^{53:1}Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For 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. ³He 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. ⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our

iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. ⁶All 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. ⁷He 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. ⁸By 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? ⁹And 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. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for sin, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹Out 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. ¹²Therefore 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A HYMN

“The Lamb” (*LSB* 547)

EPISTLE

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

P The Epistle is from Hebrews, the fourth and fifth chapters.

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with

confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . . ^{5:7}In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 18–19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth and nineteenth chapters.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So He asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go.” ⁹This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one.” ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?”

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. ¹³First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how You answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?” ²⁴Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They

themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

A HYMN

"O Darkest Woe" (*LSB 448*)

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷Then Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." ³⁸Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

^{19:1}Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. ³They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in

Him.” ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” ⁷The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God.” ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to Him, “You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?” ¹¹Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin.”

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵They 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.” ¹⁶So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

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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THE GOSPEL CONTINUED

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘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 garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing 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.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who

saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.”³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on Him whom they have pierced.”

A HYMN

“In Christ Alone” (Getty)

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me

For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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THE GOSPEL CONTINUED

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

⁴¹Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

“The Royal Banners Forward Go” (*LSB* 455)

SERMON

Psalms 41:10

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN INTRODUCTION

P Although many hymns sung during Lent and Holy Week refer to the cross of Jesus and its setting on the hill of Calvary, not many bring to our minds the tomb of Jesus and its significance. In stanza 6 of “*My Song Is Love Unknown*,” Samuel Crossman describes the burial place of our Lord with these poetic words: “*No friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.*” Even the burial place of Jesus served as a testament to His humility and to His “*love unknown.*”

HYMN “My Song Is Love Unknown” (*LSB* 430:1, 6–7)

+ TENEBRAE +

OFFICE HYMN “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”
(*LSB* 439:1, 12–15)

FIRST WORD *Luke 23:34a*

³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:1–3)

The first candle is extinguished.

SECOND WORD *Luke 23:43*

⁴³[Jesus] said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:4–6)

The second candle is extinguished.

THIRD WORD

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.

HYMN

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:7–9)

The third candle is extinguished.

FOURTH WORD

Matthew 27:46

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?”

HYMN

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:10–12)

The fourth candle is extinguished.

FIFTH WORD

John 19:28

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

HYMN

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:13–15)

The fifth candle is extinguished.

SIXTH WORD

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.

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (LSB 447:16–18)

The sixth candle is extinguished.

SEVENTH WORD

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.

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

COLLECT

P Let us pray. Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

COLLECT

P Let us pray. Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, You have taken our sins in Your own body on the tree of the cross so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, Your servants, with all others who devoutly remember Your blessed passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and through Your grace eternal glory in the life to come.

C Amen.

The final candle, symbolizing the light of Christ, is removed from the altar area. The strepitus (loud sound) is heard, evoking the sound of the earthquake that followed Christ’s death or the rolling of the stone to seal the tomb, symbolizing the completeness of Christ’s sacrifice. The light is returned to the altar, and the congregation departs in reverent silence.

Easter Sunday

Come, celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and His victory over death on Easter Sunday. Our joyful Easter service (with Holy Communion) will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Friends in Faith and the men of the congregation will be serving an Easter breakfast that begins at 8:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the lobby of the church.

