



Good Friday 2020

The Greatest Battle Ever Fought

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE NOTES:

Good Friday is meant for worshipers to realize the impact of that day when our Lord Jesus died because he was being punished for the sins of the world. Today is not a funeral for Jesus. We are not to be feeling sorry for Jesus on Good Friday. It is a day to remember the enormity of our sin. It is a day to ponder the enormity of God's love. Focused on God's love for us we find comfort and now and into eternity. God bless your meditation.

This service is divided up into seven parts. The division is meant for us to consider the seven statements of Christ from the cross.

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

M: Let us pray.

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, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.



Service of Shadows



STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

LESSON – Isaiah 53

M: Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:1-4)

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (Isaiah 53:6)

By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer. (Isaiah 53:7-10)

Though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:10-12)

HYMN – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (125, v.1-4)

**♪ 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.**

**♪ 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.**

**♪ 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?**

**♪ 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.**



The Seven Words of Christ



THE FIRST WORD – A WORD OF FORGIVENESS FOR ME

Luke 23:26-34

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then “ ‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!” ‘ For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

HYMN – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (105 v. 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.**

THE SECOND WORD – A WORD OF PROMISE FOR ME

Luke 23:38-43

There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

HYMN – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (105, v. 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!**

THE THIRD WORD – A WORD OF CARING FOR ME

John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

HYMN – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (105, v.3)

**♪ Now from your cheeks has vanished Their color, once so fair;
From your red lips is banished The splendor that was there.
Grim death with cruel rigor Has robbed you of your life;
Thus you have lost your vigor, Your strength, in this sad strife.**

THE FOURTH WORD – A WORD OF SUFFERING FOR ME

Matthew 27:45-49

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi lama sabachthani?*”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

HYMN – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (105, v.4)

**♪ My burden in your passion, Lord, you have borne for me,
For it was my transgression, My shame, on Calvary.
I cast me down before you; Wrath is my rightful lot.
Have mercy, I implore you; Redeemer, spurn me not!**

THE FIFTH WORD – A WORD OF FULFILLMENT FOR ME

John 19:28,29

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

HYMN – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (105, v.5)

**♪ What language shall I borrow To thank you, dearest Friend,
For this, your dying sorrow, Your pity without end?
Oh, make me yours forever, And keep me strong and true;
Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love for you.**

THE SIXTH WORD – A WORD OF COMPLETION FOR ME

John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

HYMN – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (105, v.6)

**♪ My Savior, then be near me When death is at my door,
And let your presence cheer me; Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, Oh, leave me not alone,
But take away my anguish By virtue of your own!**

THE SEVENTH WORD – A WORD OF PEACE FOR ME

Luke 23:44-47, Matthew 27:57-60

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.”

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and placed it in his

own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

HYMN – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (105, v.7)

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

THE MESSAGE

It was the greatest battle ever fought. Websites that list the greatest battles of all time say their criteria is usually based on the influence of those battles on history. Battles do influence cultures and countries and leaders and forms of government. But they come and go throughout history.

This battle that Jesus fought on the cross? It was and is the single most important battle in all of history. What happened on the cross when Jesus died would change the world and all who ever lived.

On that cross Satan attacked Jesus relentlessly. Amidst the mocking and the scorning, amidst the pain and weakness of Jesus' human body, amidst the darkness, the devil's lying must have reached a fevered pitch. Maybe it sounded like this, "Your sacrifice won't make a difference, you know humanity's track record. They'll turn against you. Peter did, Judas did, all your disciples fled. Thousands, millions of souls will turn against you later."

What agony must have been on our Lord, the billions of souls' sins pressing down on him, all the horrible things you and I have thought, said and done.

And worst of all: The Father's anger falling down washing over him. The one who makes mountains shake and the sends fire to destroy Sodom and Gommorah directs his full fury at Jesus.

The Father suspends his relationship with his Son all so that his Son can pay for the world's sins. It must have torn apart the Father to hear it, He cries out, "My God My God why have you forsaken me?"

See how he holds his ground against the devil, against the temptation to end it all and walk away. It is the worst moment of his life, his suffering torment over our sin reaches a fevered pitch. **Here the greatest battle ever fought is won for us...**

Jesus cries out, "It is finished."

Often we think with our sin...if I just work a little harder I'll pay for that sin, I'll do something to make up for it. If I try a little harder I'll get rid of this or that sin, you fill in the blank _____ . Our problem is bigger than that. We see in the cross what sin deserves. We cannot work hard enough. We are not strong enough to purchase forgiveness for ourselves. It is all in Jesus sweat and blood. It is in his declaration, "It is finished."

Our home in heaven is prepaid for! There is nothing more you or I have to do to pay for the guilt of our sin. We are forgiven. It is finished. On Good Friday we wait with a quiet confidence, our Savior rose just as he said. He proved the payment for sin was accepted. We are forgiven. Jesus won the greatest battle ever fought...for us!

OFFERING

A PRAYER

Lamb of God, what a truly dark and empty day it would be everyday if you had not willingly died on the cross! Your suffering and your death should have been mine. Impress upon me the joy this day should bring into my life. For by your death you made it possible for me to experience God's love and forgiveness every day. Help me never to live as though your death was for nothing. Rather, enable me to live as one who has died to sin and been made alive for righteousness. Hear me for the sake of your innocent suffering and death. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

CLOSING EXHORTATION

M: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C: By the cross he has redeemed the world.

