

**AS WE GATHER**

Good Friday is a time of somber reflection as we approach the mystery of the cross. But the austerity of the Good Friday liturgy should not obscure the fact that this is a death we celebrate because of the life and forgiveness that flow from the cross for us and for our salvation. Because Good Friday is not an isolated event or day but part of God's planned revelation of His love, we listen to the entire story of God's work of salvation and deliverance. The message of the cross is the message of the Scriptures, planned by God, proclaimed by the prophets, and fulfilled in Christ. This liturgy continues what was begun on Holy Thursday and will not be complete until Easter Sunday adds its own message of hope and triumph.

*All are asked to enter the church in silence.*

**Confession and Forgiveness** *Psalm 51: 1-10*

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy and solemn day, the Friday we call good, we are confronted with the serious nature of our sin, which made this day necessary. It is proper for us to reflect on and confess our sinfulness. Let us join the woman caught in adultery, the tax collector in the temple, King David, and all who humble themselves before the Lord and say —God, be merciful to me a sinner.

*A time of silence is observed to call to mind the specifics of our sin and prepare for confession.*

Pastor: Let us make confession of our sins.

**People: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

Pastor: God is merciful. Even before we were aware of the burden of our sin, God planned our salvation. He sent His only-begotten Son into this world of sin and made Him to be sin for us. It was our sin that He bore to Calvary's cross. It was the penalty for our sin that He endured. And it was because of His sacrifice that our sins are forgiven. As your called and ordained pastor, and at the command and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, I point you to look at the cross in faith and see that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**Psalm 51:10–15**

Pastor: As God's forgiven children, we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives and live for His glory:

**All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness. O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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.

## Hymn: My Song Is Love Unknown LSB 430 vv 1-3



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would  
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,  
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,



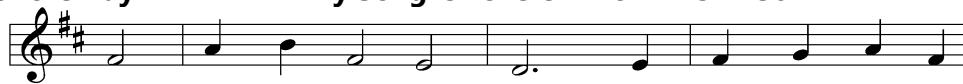
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
Who at my need His life did spend!  
And for His death They thirst and cry.

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## Reflection What's So Good About Good Friday

Pastor Aaron Boerst

## Song of the Day My Song Is Love Unknown LSB 430 vv 4-7



4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and  
5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -  
6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might  
7 Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di -



spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their  
way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they  
have; In death no friend - ly tomb But what a strang - er  
vine! Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like



sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these  
slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes  
gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home  
Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise



Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.  
That He His foes From thence might free.  
But mine the tomb Where - in He lay.  
I all my days Could glad - ly spend!

**Creed – Nicene Creed**

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

**Service of Darkness**

***Based on the Words Spoken by Our Lord from the Cross.***

**Hymn: "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" #447 verses 1-3**



1 Je - sus, in Your dy - ing woes, E - ven while Your  
2 Sav - ior, for our par - don sue When our sins Your  
3 Oh, may we, who mer - cy need, Be like You in



life - blood flows, Crav - ing par - don for Your foes:  
pangs re - new, For we know not what we do:  
heart and deed, When with wrong our spir - its bleed:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

**The Prophecy ..... Psalm 22:16–18**

*Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.*

**The First Word ..... Luke 23:32–38**

*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." And they cast lots to divide His garments. 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."*

**Response**

Pastor: Father, we are brought almost to tears as we stand at the foot of the cross.  
**People: We find it difficult to comprehend how much Your love did for us.**  
 Pastor: Lord Jesus, we stand in awe of Your forgiving those who nailed You to the cross.  
**People: Help us to learn to forgive those who hurt us in the same way.**  
 Pastor: Open our eyes,  
**People: That we may see Your love more clearly in the death of Your Son.**

***The first candle is extinguished.***

**Hymn: "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" #447 verses 4-6**

4 Je - sus, pit - y - ing the sighs Of the thief, who  
 5 May we in our guilt and shame Still Your love and  
 6 May our hearts to You in - cline And their thoughts Your

near You dies, Prom - is - ing him par - a - dise:  
 mer - cy claim, Call - ing hum - bly on Your name:  
 cross en - twine. Cheer our souls with hope di - vine:

Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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**The Prophecy ..... Psalm 22:7-8**

*All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: —He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let Him deliver him, since He delights in him.*

**The Second Word..... Luke 23:39-43**

*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."*

**Response**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, open our eyes,  
**People: That we, too, may glimpse the goodness of this day, even in the midst of uncertainty and sadness.**  
 Pastor: Guide and direct us  
**People: Into Your paradise which awaits us, and reveal Your perfect peace to us.**  
 Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant us  
**People: A richer awareness of the hope that You provide in Your Son Jesus.**

Pastor: Help us to cling every day to the life You have given to us,  
**People: And by Your Holy Spirit, help us to glorify You in all that we do.**

**Hymn:** "Jesus, Remember Me" #767 (sung twice)

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.  
 Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

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**The second candle is extinguished.**

**Hymn:** "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" #447 verses 7-9

7 Je - sus, lov - ing to the end Her whose heart Your  
 8 May we in Your sor - rows share, For Your sake all  
 9 May we all Your loved ones be, All one ho - ly  
 sor - rows rend, And Your dear - est hu - man friend:  
 per - il dare, And en - joy Your ten - der care:  
 fam - i - ly, Lov - ing, since Your love we see:  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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**The Prophecy ..... Isaiah 7:10-14**

*Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as the heavens." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*

**The Third Word ..... John 19:25-27**

*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.*

**Response**

Pastor: Lord God, may we learn from our Lord's example to love others as You have loved us;  
**People: While seeing the worst we find in others and in ourselves, yet rejoicing in the forgiveness and acceptance we have received from You and share with others.**  
 Pastor: Encourage us to strive by the power of the Holy Spirit

**People:** Toward greater unity in our own families and toward unity in the family of believers in Christ Jesus.

*The third candle is extinguished.*

**Hymn:** "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" #447 verses 10-12



10 Je - sus, whelmed in fears un - known, With our e - vil  
11 When we seem in vain to pray And our hope seems  
12 Though no Fa - ther seem to hear, Though no light our



left a - lone, While no light from heav'n is shown:  
far a - way, In the dark - ness be our stay:  
spir - its cheer, May we know that God is near:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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**The Prophecy ..... Psalm 22:1-8**

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are You so far from saving me,  
from the words of my groaning?  
O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.  
Yet You are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
In You our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and You delivered them.  
To You they cried and were rescued;  
in You they trusted and were not put to shame.  
But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.  
All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;  
"He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver him;  
let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!"*

**The Fourth Word ..... Matthew 27:45-46**

*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?"*

**Response**

Pastor: Lord, we would never forsake You,

**People: But in our daily hustle and bustle, we sometimes forget You.**

Pastor: Lord, we would never condemn You, shouting "crucify!"

**People:** Although we have allowed evil to be done in Your name.  
 Pastor: Lord, we would never deny You, saying, "I do not know the man!"  
**People:** But we have avoided opportunities to witness to Your love and to share the good news of salvation in Your name.  
 Pastor: Lord, we would never shut You out of our lives,  
**People:** Yet we confess that our own selfishness hides Your presence and love from us. Forgive us, O Lord.

**The fourth candle is extinguished.**

**Hymn:** "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" #447 verses 13-15

13 Je - sus, in Your thirst and pain, While Your wounds Your  
 14 Thirst for us in mer - cy still; All Your ho - ly  
 15 May we thirst Your love to know. Lead us in our  
 life - blood drain, Thirst - ing more our love to gain:  
 work ful - fill; Sat - is - fy Your lov - ing will:  
 sin and woe Where the heal - ing wa - ters flow:  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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**The Prophecy.....Psalm 22:14-15**

*I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; You lay me in the dust of death.*

**The Fifth Word.....John 19:28-29**

*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.*

**Response**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, sometimes we forget that the pain and anguish You suffered was human pain and anguish.  
**People:** We often feel sorry for ourselves, without realizing what You suffered on our behalf.  
 Pastor: Having given Your life on our behalf,  
**People:** Help us to be bold in proclaiming Your name, despite the cost to us.  
 Pastor: By Your suffering and death on our behalf,  
**People:** Grant us the gift of life, life that is lived for Your glory.

**The fifth candle is extinguished.**

Hymn: "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" #447 verses 16-18



16 Je - sus, all our ran - som paid, All Your Fa - ther's  
17 Save us in our soul's dis - tress; Be our help to  
18 Bright - en all our heav'n - ward way With an ev - er



will o - beyed; By Your suf - f'rings per - fect made:  
cheer and bless While we grow in ho - li - ness:  
ho - lier ray Till we pass to per - fect day:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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**The Prophecy..... Isaiah 53:4-5**

*Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But 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.*

**The Sixth Word..... John 19:30**

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

**Response**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, in Your death we have life.

**People:** **We give You thanks that You finished the course set by the Father, that leads to our salvation.**

**Pastor:** By Your holy death,

**People:** **strengthen us to remain faithful unto death, that we may receive the crown of life You have earned for us.**

**Pastor:** Lead and guide us, O Lord, beyond the darkness of sin into the light of Your grace,

**People:** **that we need not wander in the darkness forever, but may see Your glorious light.**

***The sixth candle is extinguished***



**Hymn:** "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" #447 verses 19-21



19 Je - sus, all Your la - bor vast, All Your woe and  
20 When the death shades round us low'r, Guard us from the  
21 May Your life and death sup - ply Grace to live and



con - flict past, Yield - ing up Your soul at last:  
tempt - er's pow'r, Keep us in that tri - al hour:  
grace to die, Grace to reach the home on high:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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**The Prophecy..... Psalm 31:1-5**

*In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in Your righteousness deliver me! Incline Your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me! For You are my rock and my fortress; and for Your name's sake You lead me and guide me; You take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for You are my refuge. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.*

**The Seventh Word..... Luke 23:44-46**

*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.*

**Response**

**Pastor:** Open our eyes, Lord;

**People:** **The shadow of Your Son's cross encompasses all our world.**

**Pastor:** Teach our hearts, O Lord,

**People:** **That when our last hour comes, we may confidently commit ourselves into Your loving arms.**

**Pastor:** Lead us, Lord,

**People:** **That we may follow You through the valley of the shadow of death into the place prepared for us at Your throne in Paradise.**

***The seventh candle is extinguished.***

*(A time of silence is observed for personal reflection.)*

Hymn:

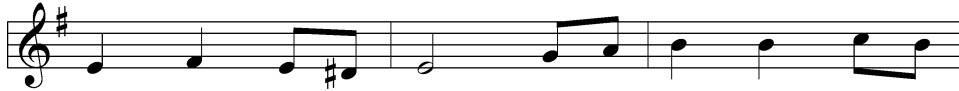
"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" # 451



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the  
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like  
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil  
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my  
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -  
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its  
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed  
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to  
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -  
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I  
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the  
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the  
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.  
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.  
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.  
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

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**Jesus is Buried .....John 19:38-42**

*After 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. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now 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. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.*

Hymn:

"Were You There" # 456 vv1-3



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you  
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you  
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...  
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...  
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.  
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.  
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

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Pastor: Let us pray

**People:** **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 sin, death, and Satan. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's suffering that we may receive forgiveness of sins and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

***The Strepitus (Closing of the Tomb)***  
***(A loud noise will be heard)***

**Parting**

*You are asked to leave in silence anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday. The omission of the benediction tonight, like last night, indicates that our worship is not complete. We return tomorrow to take Vigil on Holy Saturday and await the celebration of Easter morning.*