

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF DARKNESS

**April 10, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

TOLLING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: We gather here to worship God.

C: **We gather to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us and to thank God for His love and His mercy.**

L: Let us pray. Merciful God, we come before You on this day, remembering the Savior whom You sent, the suffering that paid the cost of our redemption, and the death that killed death, once for all.

C: **Give us such faith in Your Son and in the salvation He has won, that we may not despair for lack of hope nor surrender ourselves to evil, but call upon His saving name with thanksgiving in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” – Blue Hymnal #115

**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!**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, part 1, from Isaiah 53 (*The Message*):

Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought GOD's saving power would look like this? The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried—*our* disfigurements, all the things wrong with *us*. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—*our sins!* He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed. We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And GOD has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him. He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word. Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered and like a sheep being sheared, he took it all in silence. Justice miscarried, and he was led off—and did anyone really know what was happening? He died without a thought for his own welfare, beaten bloody for the sins of my people.

CHOIR: “When You Prayed Beneath the Trees” – Idle/Larson
Solo by Ben Hugo

+ THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS +

THE FIRST WORD: Luke 23:33-34

“Father, forgive them...”

As the soldiers 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 childless 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 people 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, they crucified him there, 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.

MEDITATION

CHORAL RESPONSE: “Wondrous Love” – Tucker/Cameron
Solo by Will Hugo

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIRST CANDLE:

P: What wondrous love the Savior showed for me;
C: **He chose the cross out of love!**

THE SECOND WORD: Luke 23:39-43

“Today you will be in paradise with me...”

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” 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 Messiah? 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, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

MEDITATION

CHORAL RESPONSE: “Jesus, Remember Me” – Palmer
Solo by Brooke Edberg

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SECOND CANDLE:

P: Jesus, remember me
C: **When you come into your kingdom.**

THE THIRD WORD: John 19:25-27

“Woman, here is your son; son, here is your mother”

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 her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

MEDITATION

HYMN: "At the Cross Her Station Keeping"

**At the cross, her station keeping, Stood the mournful mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last. Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing, Now at length the sword had passed.**

**For his people's sin chastised, She beheld her Son despised,
Scourged, and crowned with thorns entwined;
Saw him then from judgment taken, And in death by all forsaken,
Till his spirit he resigned.**

**Jesus, may her deep devotion Stir in me the same emotion,
Source of love, Redeemer true. Let me thus, fresh ardor gaining
And a purer love attaining, Consecrate my life to you.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE THIRD CANDLE:

P: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

C: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

THE FOURTH WORD: Mark 15:33-34

"Why have you forsaken me?"

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"* (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

MEDITATION

HYMN: "Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

**Lord, why have You forsaken Me,
And why are You so far away
From My complaint and My distress
Poured out before You night and day.**

**Yet You are holy, and the songs
Of praise of Israel are Your throne;
When our forefathers called on You,
You saved them, rescued all Your own.**

**But I am mocked and put to scorn,
All those who see Me laugh and say,
"You trust in God, so let us see
The help of Him to whom You pray."**

**Yet You, O Lord, have been My God
And only hope since I was born;
Trouble is near Me, none can help;
My Savior, leave Me not forlorn.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE:

P: But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.
C: I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.

THE FIFTH WORD: John 19:28
"I thirst."

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

MEDITATION

SONG: "As the Deer"

**As the deer panteth for the water, So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship Thee.**

**REFRAIN: You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You, alone, may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.**

**You're my friend and You are my brother, Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other, So much more than anything. REFRAIN:**

**I want You more than gold or silver, Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver, And the apple of my eye. REFRAIN:**
("As the Deer" by Martin Nystrom, copyright 1984 Maranatha! Music, CCLI License #921494.)

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIFTH CANDLE:

P: As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.
C: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

THE SIXTH WORD: John 19:29-30
"It is finished!"

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. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."

MEDITATION

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SIXTH CANDLE:

P: Jesus, all our ransom paid, all your Father's will obeyed;
C: By your sufferings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.

THE SEVENTH WORD: Luke 23:46
"...I commit my spirit."

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

MEDITATION

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SEVENTH CANDLE:

P: May your life and death supply grace to live and grace to die,

C: **Grace to reach the home on high: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

**O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.**

O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!

Yet, tho' despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

Here will I stand beside you, Your death for me my plea;

Let all the world deride you, I clasp you close to me.

My awe cannot be spoken, To see you crucified;

But in your body broken, Redeemed, I safely hide!

What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,

For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?

Oh, make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,

Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

Be Thou my Consolation, My Shield, when I must die;

Remind me of Thy Passion When my last hour draws nigh.

Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,

My heart by faith enfold Thee, Who dieth thus dies well.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, part 2, from Isaiah 53 (*The Message*)

They buried him with the wicked, threw him in a grave with a rich man, even though he'd never hurt a soul or said one word that wasn't true. Still, it's what GOD had in mind all along, to crush him with pain. The plan was that he give himself as an offering for sin so that he'd see life come from it—life, life, and more life. And GOD's plan will deeply prosper through him.

PRAYER:

P: Let us pray.

C: **Christ Jesus, you hung upon a cross and died for us so that we might live for you.**

P: Your body was broken and your blood shed so that we might be healed and made whole.

C: **You were faithful unto death so that we might be faithful unto life.**

P: Your last command was that we might love one another:

C: **One family together from every tribe and nation,**

P: A new creation united through your sacrifice,

C: **Redeemed by your blood,**

P: Healed by your love,

C: **United by your covenant of peace.**

All: **In your death may we find life.**

LORD'S PRAYER (*spoken quietly*):

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 OF THE TOMB

CHRIST CANDLE IS REMOVED

CHOIR: "Golgatha Hill" – Crowder/Profitt/Cash

(Silence)

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Andrew Wagner

Altar Guild: Alma Field; Pat & Duane Rosenberg

Power Point: Charles Kikeh

Acolyte: Renata Kikeh

Speakers: Will Hugo, Renata Kikeh, Karyn Naber

2020 FESTIVAL CHOIR

Bruce Blase
Judie Colaianni
Maria Davis
Brooke Edberg
Ben Hugo
Brenda Hugo

Will Hugo
Katie Landwehr
Kristen Landwehr
Deb Santillo
Andrew Wagner

Accompanist: Karrie Kikeh