

GOOD FRIDAY

Your Kingdom Come: God is Dead

April 10, 2020

AS WE GATHER

It seems strange to call this day “good.” After all, on this day, Jesus, our Savior and Lord, was tortured, beaten, spit upon, and brutally crucified on a cross. What is good about that? Actually, the goodness of this day is extensive and amazing. At the cross, God’s plan to redeem the world came to full fruition. Rather than ignore our sin, pretend it away, or eternally turn away from us, God became one of us, and in an act of pure self-sacrifice and love, Jesus willingly suffered the worst. For you. For me. For the world. Ours is not a God who says to us, “If you obey Me well enough, then I might love you.” Our God says to us at the outset, “I love you. I willingly gave My life for yours. If you want to see the extent of My love, look to the cross. Let My love draw you to hear and obey Me.” So today’s service is not a funeral for Jesus. It is a way to remember the events of Jesus’ death—including the allusions to it already in the Old Testament. It is an occasion for us to be drawn closer in love to the God who loves us unconditionally. It is an occasion to weep over our sin that made the crucifixion of Jesus necessary. It is an occasion to rejoice in the forgiveness and peace that comes from putting our faith in our crucified Lord. It is an occasion to marvel at the breadth, height, and depth of God’s love for us. Yes, it is Good Friday.



Theme of the Day: God is dead. Not figuratively. Literally. Today—Good Friday—we let that truth sink deep into our repentant hearts.

Pre Service Music “Is This The Savior?” By Dana Mengel

Welcome

Invocation

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Call to Worship

Pastor: Behold, your King comes to you—

People: Righteous and having salvation.

Pastor: Speaking peace to the nations.

People: And ruling from sea to sea—

Pastor: To the ends of the earth!

People: God’s kingdom comes—

Pastor: To us!

People: Through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Opening Hymn: "Go to Dark Gethsemane" 436

Go to dark Gethsemane,
 All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
 Your Redeemer's conflict see,
 Watch with Him one bitter hour;
 Turn not from His griefs away;
 Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
 View the Lord of life arraigned;
 Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
 Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
 Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
 Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
 There, adoring at His feet,
 Mark that miracle of time,
 God's own sacrifice complete.
 "It is finished!" hear Him cry;
 Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb
 Where they laid His breathless clay;
 All is solitude and gloom.
 Who has taken Him away?
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
 Savior, teach us so to rise.

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Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to reverently behold the agony of Your rejection, the pain of Your condemnation, and the horror of Your crucifixion.

People: Bring us to the places you walked and to the people you encountered on that Friday so long ago.

Pastor: Stay with us, Lord, as we witness Your suffering and listen to Your last words of love.

People: As we approach Calvary let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against Your holy commandments.

Pastor: Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from You in our thinking, speaking and doing.

People: We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.

Pastor: We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.

People: O God, we have tried to hide from You and from one another.

Pastor: We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us and the failed relationships that haunt us.

People: **We cannot plead the strength of our temptations or the frailty of our nature or place the blame on other people.**

Pastor: We can only say, "For the sake of Jesus, God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

+ A moment of silent reflection +

Pastor: By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. God's kingdom comes to us.

ALL: **Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Zechariah 12:10–14

¹⁰ "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. ¹¹ On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹² The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: the clan of the house of David and their wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives, ¹³ the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan of Shimei and their wives, ¹⁴ and all the rest of the clans and their wives.

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1–8

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Gospel Reading Mark 16:16-47

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. ²⁷ They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!"

³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! ³² Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

³³ At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at 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?"

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

³⁶ One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink.

"Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

The Burial of Jesus

⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" 425

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!
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

The Ninth Part in the Series
 Your Kingdom Come
God is Dead
 Zechariah 12:10–14

Hymn: "Lamb of God Pure and Holy" 434

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
 Who on the cross didst suffer,
 Ever patient and lowly,
 Thyself to scorn didst offer.
 All sins Thou borest for us,
 Else had despair reigned o'er us:

Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
 Who on the cross didst suffer,
 Ever patient and lowly,
 Thyself to scorn didst offer.
 All sins Thou borest for us,
 Else had despair reigned o'er us:
 Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
 Who on the cross didst suffer,
 Ever patient and lowly,
 Thyself to scorn didst offer.
 All sins Thou borest for us,
 Else had despair reigned o'er us:
 Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Text: Public domain

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 X of the world to come. Amen.**

BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church throughout the world, that churches flourish in their working of connecting people with the love of Jesus.

Father God, by Your Holy Spirit, guide our church to present a clear witness to the love of Jesus. Let unity overcome division, truth overcome error, and love overcome strife; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for the Synod President, Matthew; District President, John; for our pastors and teachers; for all servants of the Church; and for all the people of God.

Lord of the Church, You bless our church with pastors and teachers, musicians and custodians, deaconesses and Sunday School teachers, missionaries and theologians, and a wide variety of ministries to extend Your love to communities everywhere. Uphold and guide all whom You call to various ministries, that their work give glory to You and extend Your reign in all communities; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who are new to the Christian faith and are preparing for Baptism or confirmation.

Lord God, You bless our church with new people. Guide them as they learn and grow to love You. Protect them from distractions. Help them to find ways to live out their newly experienced faith in acts of service. Help our church to welcome new people with open arms; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who do not believe in Jesus Christ, that the Holy Spirit would gently guide hearts to the love of God for us in Jesus.

Merciful God, You often work in wonderfully mysterious ways. We ask that Your Spirit move powerfully in the lives of those who do not believe to draw them toward Your love in Christ Jesus. Enable those of us who believe to be good and faithful witnesses to the love of Christ. Keep us from placing unnecessary barriers in the way of the those who struggle to believe. Help us to be ready to rejoice when a lost sheep is found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God guide them to lead with wisdom, compassion, and concern for those most vulnerable in our society.

God of power and might, bless the leaders of our nation, state, and local communities. Create in them the humility to lead as those who serve. Protect us from corrupt and unjust leaders. Guide all who serve in public office to seek the peace, well-being, freedom, and joy of the people they serve; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those in need: the sick, the dying, and those in healthcare and the military.

Have mercy, Lord, spare Your people and turn this pandemic away! Preserve the sick, comfort the fearful and grant to the dying Your peace. Hear us on behalf of all those who are in the health care service including Julie Smith, Kaitlyn Krystowiak, Kimberly Vandenberg, Piper Bratz, Kristen Kmetz, Dr. Gabriel Johnson, Jeanne Marcone, Miriam Vargas, Nancy Doerfler, Jenny Caretta, Kelsey Domke, Dr. Richard Ellingstad, Sean Urness, Danielle Storm, Steve Storm, Michael Powell, Rosa Villa, Jim Filer Jr., Melissa Lein, Jay Lein, Janet Sandberg, Robin Deakins, Allison Schmidt, Melissa Koerber, Nancy Hischke and Pat Bolling preserve them and protect them in this pandemic. We also pray for the daughter of Linda and Donn Edwards, Stephanie and her newborn child Hunter; Ruthie who has Covid-19; Marie Filer; Jenna Worth, friend of Richveis family; Janell Arneson, Robert Gleason, Jason Bulgrin; Amanda Kirby, Pat Schroyer; Rita, sister of Brenda Wienke; Mike Wiebeck; Brenda Wienke; Pablo Maiti; Chuck Collison; Jill & Christel Schumann, friends of the Richveis family; Theresa King; Andy Wright; Pat Dietschweiler; Alex Gomez; Sue Huebner; Joyce Pearl; for our military personnel: Dalton Locklear, Steven Solmonson III; Marc Ellingstad, US Diplomat now serving in Florida; for those overseas: Baker family serving in Mongolia; Daniel & Marie, Anastasia, Alethia and Emmanuelle Walter, ministry outreach in Israel. Give to those who are in need of healing Your cure in accordance with Your will, strength to bear up under the burdens of this mortal life, protection, comfort and hope in this and every trial; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Finally, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

CONTEMPLATION OF THE CROSS

Pastor: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

People: O come, let us worship Him.

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People: O come, let us worship Him.

[If you have a cross at home, you are invited to hold your cross during the following prayer.]

REMEMBRANCE OF THE CROSS

Pastor: Lord God, let these crosses from our homes serve to connect the goodness of Good Friday to our everyday lives. Let them be for us constant reminders of the depth of Your love for us, of the astounding forgiveness by which You renew our lives, of Your presence with us in the midst of our suffering, and of the peace that You give now and into eternity. In Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

Vocalist: "Were You There" 456

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh . . .

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Oh . . .

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Oh . . .

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

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Silent Prayer: Holy Spirit, empower me to look upon the Pierced One—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Easter Worship will be live streamed on Saturday, April 10 at 5:30pm and archived for Easter Sunday at www.oursaviorburlington.com