

*The Service of Divine Worship for Good Friday
Friday, April 18th 2025*

The Words of Preparation

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. - Isaiah 53:4

Posterity will serve Him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim His righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it! - Psalm 22:30-31

“Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered; for our atonement while we nothing heeded, God interceded.” - from “Ah, Holy Jesus”

God Gathers Us in His Holy Presence

The Chiming of the Hour and the Prayer of Invocation

The Prelude

The Call to Worship *from Phil. 2:8 and 1 Peter 2:24*

People of God, lift up your hearts:

We lift them to the Lord.

Blessed be Your name, O Lord our God, who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, You became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

You bore our sins in Your body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

Blessed be Your name, O Lord!

***The Opening Hymn** #215 *“What Wondrous Love is This?”* (v. 1-2)

God Convicts, Assures, and Restores Us

The Communal Reading with Song *(insert) Isaiah 53*

God Speaks His Promises in His Word

The Scripture Lesson Luke 23:26-27, 32-46

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The Hymn of Response #223 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

The Sermon “Surveying the Wondrous Cross”

God Send Us Forth in Loving Service and Witness

The Closing Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

***The Closing Hymn** #215 “What Wondrous Love is This?” (v. 3-4)

*During the hymn, the sanctuary is shrouded with the color of death,
And the symbols are carried out.*

The Chimes, the Extinguishing of the Light, and the Departure in Silence

*Nine chimes mark the hours of our Lord’s suffering,
and the extinguishing of light symbolizes the giving up of his spirit
and the breathing of His last.*

*After the chimes have rung and the lights are extinguished,
We depart in solemn and grateful silence befitting the night’s events.*

About Good Friday

Good Friday marks the death of Jesus Christ. Though it is a day marked by the death of an innocent man, it is called “good” because of what Jesus’ death means for the redemption of the world. After gathering with His disciples in the Upper Room and departing for the Garden of Gethsemane, our Lord was arrested, tried, beaten, and led to Golgotha where He was crucified. On this night, we humbly confess our sins which He bore for our salvation (1 Peter 2:24), and the love that compelled Him to humble Himself unto death for our sake - even death on a cross (Phil. 2:8).

Isaiah 53: A Communal Reading with Song

Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
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.

**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.**

Surely He took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered Him punished by God,
stricken by Him, and afflicted.

**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.
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.**

Song: #218 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (v. 1)

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.
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.
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.**

Song: #218 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (v. 2-3)

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer,
and 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.

After He has suffered,
He will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by His knowledge My righteous servant will justify many,
and He will bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and He will divide the spoils with the strong,
because He poured out His life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.

**For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.**

Song: #218 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (v. 4-5)