



REDEEMER

WINTER HAVEN

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. — 1 Peter 2:24



March 29, 2024 – Good Friday

Season of the Cross: Red for Holy Week

Since the early church, Christians have observed the week leading up to Easter as a time of particular devotion. Good Friday is an opportunity to meditate on the Passion and Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and to pray for the church and world for whom Christ died. We depart our service in silence to reflect the solemnity of the day.

Call to Worship: Psalm 31:1-5

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reminds us of who God is and what He expects from us.

Leader: In You, O Lord, do I take refuge... Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

People: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Song of Reflection: The Wonderful Cross

The GARDEN: The Obedient LIFE of Jesus

We take time on this Good Friday to consider Jesus' obedient life. The Promise of the Gospel is that "we become the righteousness of God through Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." (Matthew 26:36-42)

Silent Reflection

We pause to silently consider the obedient life of Jesus.

Responsive Prayer: "Christ is All"

Leader: O Great God, may I read the meltings of Your heart to me in the manger of Your birth, in the garden of your agony, in the cross of Your suffering, in the tomb of your resurrection, in the heaven of Your intercession.

ALL: I think of Your glory and my vileness, Your majesty and my weakness, Your beauty and my deformity, Your purity and my filth, Your righteousness and my iniquity.

Leader: You have loved me everlastingly, unchangeably...

ALL: May I love You as I am loved.

Leader: You have given Yourself for me...

ALL: May I give myself to You.

Leader: You have died for me...

ALL: May I live to You, in every moment of my time, in every movement of my mind, in every pulse of my heart..

Leader: May I walk by Your side, listen to Your voice, be clothed with Your graces, and adorned with Your righteousness.

ALL: AMEN.

Song of Reflection: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

The CROSS: The Obedient DEATH of Jesus

We take time on this Good Friday to consider Jesus' obedient death. The Promise of the Gospel is that God "made him who knew no sin to become sin for us" (2 Cor. 5:21) so that we might be forgiven and reconciled to the Father.

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.**"

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. 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.**" (Luke 23:32-34, 39-43)

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!**" (John 19:25-27)

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?**" (Matthew 27:45-46)

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "**I thirst.**"

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished,**" and he bowed his head. (John 19:28, 30)

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. (Luke 23:46)

Silent Reflection

We pause to silently consider the obedient death of Jesus.

Responsive Prayer: "Love Lusters at Calvary"

Leader: Enlarge my heart, warm my affections, open my lips, supply words that proclaim 'Love lusters at Calvary.'

ALL: There grace removes my burdens and heaps them on Your Son, made a transgressor, a curse, and sin for me; there Your infinite attributes were magnified, and infinite atonement was made;

Both: Christ was all anguish... that I might be all joy

Cast off... **that I might be brought in**

Trodden down as an enemy... **that I might be welcomed as a friend,**

Surrendered to hell's worst... **that I might attain heaven's best,**

Stripped... **that I might be clothed**

Wounded... **that I might be healed**

Thirsty... **that I might drink**

Tormented... **that I might be comforted**

Made a shame... **that I might inherit glory**

Entered darkness... **that I might have eternal light.**

My Savior wept... **that all tears might be wiped from my eyes,**

He groaned... **that I might have endless song,**
He endured... **that I might have unfading health,**
He bore a thorny crown... **that I might have a glory-diadem,**
He bowed his head... **that I might uplift mine,**
He experienced reproach... **that I might receive welcome,**
He closed his eyes in death... **that I might live forever and gaze on unclouded brightness. Amen.**

Song of Reflection: O Sacred Head Now Wounded

The AFTERMATH: The Glorious Triumph of Jesus

We take time on this Good Friday to consider Jesus' triumph over sin and death in his death on the Cross, and we anticipate the Resurrection.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:51-54)

Silent Reflection

We pause to silently consider the triumph of Jesus.

Responsive Prayer: "Victory"

Leader: O Divine Redeemer, great was Your goodness in under- taking my redemption, in consenting to be made sin for me, in conquering all my foes.

ALL: Great was Your strength in enduring divine wrath and taking away the load of my iniquities.

Leader: Great was Your love in manifesting Yourself alive, in showing your sacred wounds, that every fear might be vanished and every doubt removed.

ALL: Great was Your mercy in ascending to heaven, in being crowned and entrained there to intercede for me, there to comfort me in temptation, there to open the eternal book, there to receive me finally to Yourself.

Leader: Great was Your wisdom in devising this means of salvation.

ALL: Bathe my soul in the rich consolations of Your life, death, and resurrection... When You are absent all sorrows are here. When You are present all blessings are mine. AMEN.

Scripture Meditation: 1 Peter 2:21-24; 3:18

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives.

Song of Response

We sing in response to the wonder of God's great salvation.

The Power of the Cross

Closing Prayer