

FROM LIGHT INTO DARKNESS A WORSHIP FOR GOOD FRIDAY

With this Good Friday liturgy, we continue our observance of the “Three Days” of Jesus suffering, death, and resurrection. At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not so much to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ’s life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer (“bidding” meaning to ask that something be done), we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

ELW 349

THE READINGS

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Hebrews 10: 16-25

REFLECTION

John 19:13-25

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

ELW 351

OFFERING

THE BIDDING PRAYER

The congregation responds “Amen” after each petition

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

THE SERVICE OF THE CROSS

This is a time to reflect upon the price paid for our redemption from sin and death: Christ’s defeat of evil on the cross. The cross will be brought forward into the sanctuary. The traditional “seven words” from the cross will be read with time for reflection and meditation between each “word” as a candle is extinguished.

HYMN

“Were You There”

ELW 353

(verses 1-2)

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

The following exchange will be repeated three times

P: Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: Oh, Come, let us worship him.

THE FIRST WORD

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. (Luke 23: 32-39)

They Crucified My Lord, verses 1-2

ELW 350

In the language of the spiritual, “mumbling” means “complaining.” Jesus did not complain, but chose to forgive those who nailed him to the cross.

THE SECOND WORD

Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23: 39-43)

Swing, Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain:

Swing Low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

Swing Low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

Verse:

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, coming for to carry me home?

A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home.

Repeat Refrain

Verse:

The brightest day that ever I saw, coming for to carry me home;

When Jesus washed my sins away, coming for to carry me home.

Repeat Refrain

The images of this spiritual are drawn from the story of the ascension of Elijah—crossing the Jordan, being taken into heaven in the chariot of fire, entering directly into the Paradise of the Promise

THE THIRD WORD

Woman, behold your son...behold your mother (John 19: 23-27)

There Is Balm in Gilead, verses 1 and 3

ELW 614

The mother of Jesus and the beloved disciple are given to each other; the church is given to the care of Jesus' followers. We are not left alone! As Jesus promised, so the Spirit comes to comfort us and support us through one another

THE FOURTH WORD

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27: 45-49)

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, verses 1-2

ELW 325

Jesus speaks the first words of Psalm 22, a song of one in trouble who feels forsaken by God...but ends with words of triumph as God vindicates the suffering one. We are not forsaken; Jesus is with us in all things, even our trials and suffering.

THE FIFTH WORD

I thirst (John 19:30-37)

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

ELW 333

The image of a rock in a weary land comes from the stones of the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. Where there was no water, God showed Moses how to call water from a rock. Jesus is our living water to quench our thirst.

THE SIXTH WORD

It is finished (John 19:30-37)

They Crucified My Lord-verses 3 & 5

ELW 350

THE SEVENTH WORD

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. (Luke 23:44-49)

Were You There-verses 3-4

ELW 353

Silence for meditation

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

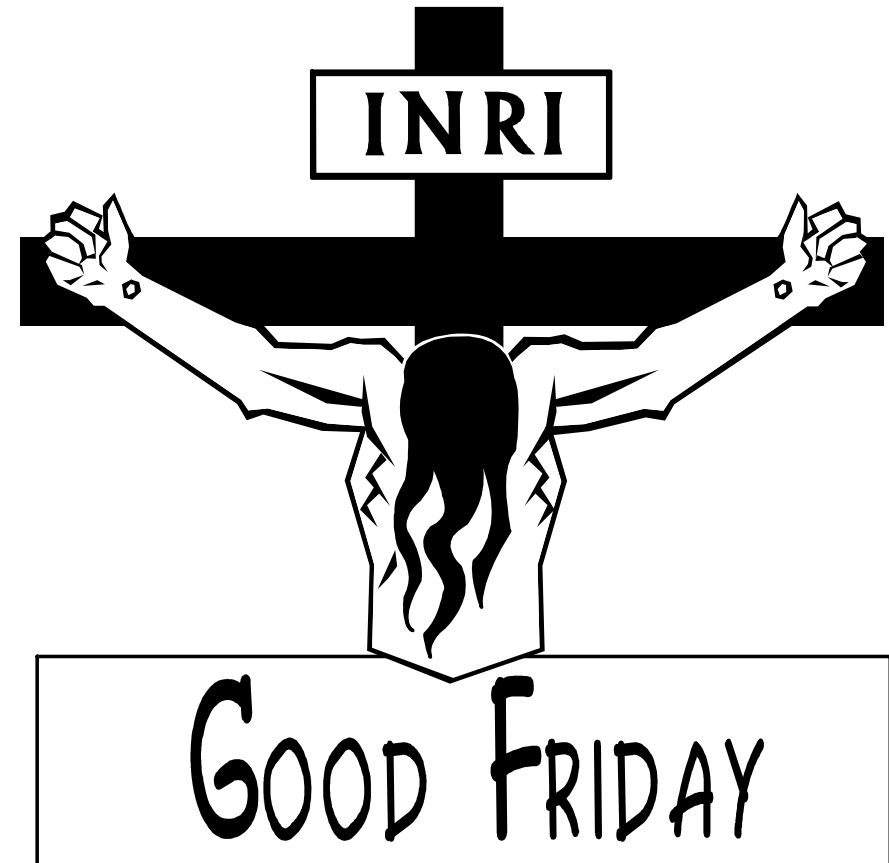
C: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

PROCESSION

“Were You There-verse 5”

ELW 353

We will follow the cross from the sanctuary. After the cross is set in its holder, worshippers may pass before the cross and drop the rocks they have collected at the base of the cross. This is a time to consider with gratitude the freedom from sin and death which Christ won for you on the cross.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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“For All to Know Christ’s Love”

Disciples: All who have gathered for worship and to learn from Jesus

Pastor Trudy K. Cretsinger