



Good Friday
March 29, 2024

Jesus' humiliation was undeserved and voluntary. He endured it in our place, and he completed the satisfaction for our sins. In Christ, God died for us.

Hymn 153 Stricken Smitten and Afflicted

1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He! 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2. Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

3. Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.

Mark the Sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the WORD, the LORD'S ANOINTED,
Son of Man and Son of God.

4. Here we have a firm foundation;
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

P: Even though he was without sin, Jesus willingly carried the burden of our guilt to the cross. Without complaint, Jesus gave up his life as the price necessary to forgive the sins of all people.

C: He, who knew no sin, became sin for us.

P: As they crucified our Savior between two criminals, he said:

C: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

P: As one of the criminals confessed his sins and asked for Jesus' forgiveness, Jesus said to him:

C: Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.

P: As he hung on the cross, Jesus looked down and saw his mother Mary and one of the disciples. He said to them:

C: Woman, behold, your son, ... Behold, your mother!

P: As thick darkness covered the land, Jesus cried out in agony:

C: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

P: As he hung on the cross, in fulfillment of prophecy, Jesus said:

C: I thirst.

P: As he received the drink the guards offered him, Jesus said:

C: It is finished.

P: As the temple curtain was torn in two, Jesus said:

C: Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

P: And having said this he breathed his last.

Hymn 167 O Darkest Woe

1. O darkest woe!
Ye tears, forth flow!
Has earth so sad a wonder?
God the Father's only Son
Now is buried yonder.
2. O sorrow dread!
God's Son is dead!
But by His expiation
Of our guilt upon the cross
Gained for us salvation.
3. O sinful man!
It was the ban
Of death on thee that brought Him
Down to suffer for thy sins
And such woe hath wrought Him.
4. Lo, stained with blood,
The Lamb of God,
The Bridegroom, lies before thee,
Pouring out His life that He
May to life restore thee.
5. O Ground of faith,
Laid low in death.
Sweet lips. now silent sleeping!
Surely all that live must mourn
Here with bitter weeping.

6. Oh, blest shall be
Eternally
Who oft in faith will ponder
Why the glorious Prince of Life
Should be buried yonder.

7. O Jesus blest,
My Help and Rest
With tears I now entreat Thee:
Make me love Thee to the last,
Till in heaven I greet Thee!

P: As we meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus, we must also consider our many sins that were the cause of his bitter passion. Our sin and guilt have earned the punishment that Jesus willingly accepted in our place. If we speak the truth, we must confess that we are sinners worthy of eternal death. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting in the merits of Jesus Christ and relying on the mercy of our Lord.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, stand before you to confess my many sins of thought, word and deed. I am completely sinful from birth and not worthy to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray, have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: Jesus shed his precious blood for you. Jesus faced the wrath of God to pay for the sins of the world. Be assured that you are forgiven. Go in peace, taking comfort in the forgiveness that is yours through faith in Jesus Christ.

C: **We thank you, gracious God, for taking the life of your Son and giving us life through him. Bless our worship in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn 170 O Perfect Life of Love

1. O perfect life of love!
All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above
To do for us below.
2. No work is left undone
Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one,
The Scriptures have fulfilled.
3. No pain that we can share
But He has felt its smart;
All forms of human grief and care
Have pierced that tender heart.
4. And on His thorn-crowned head
And on His sinless soul
Our sins in all that guilt were laid
That He might make us whole.
5. In perfect love He dies;
For me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
I cling by faith to Thee.
6. In every time of need,
Before the judgment-throne,
Thy works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
Thy merits, not mine own.
7. Yet work, O Lord, in me
As Thou for me hast wrought,
And let my love the answer be
To grace Thy love has brought.

First Lesson - Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Jesus is the suffering servant.

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. ¹ Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make

many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²
Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide
the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of
many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 31

P: In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;

C: in your righteousness deliver me!

P: Incline your ear to me;

C: rescue me speedily!

P: Be a rock of refuge for me,

C: a strong fortress to save me!

P: For you are my rock and my fortress;

C: and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

P: you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,

C: for you are my refuge.

P: Into your hand I commit my spirit;

C: you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

P: I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,

C: but I trust in the Lord.

P: I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love, because you have
seen my affliction;

C: you have known the distress of my soul,

P: and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;

C: you have set my feet in a broad place.

P: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;

C: my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.

P: For my life is spent with sorrow,

C: and my years with sighing;

P: my strength fails because of my iniquity,

C: and my bones waste away.

P: Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,

C: especially to my neighbors,

P: and an object of dread to my acquaintances;

C: those who see me in the street flee from me.

P: I have been forgotten like one who is dead;

C: I have become like a broken vessel.

P: For I hear the whispering of many—

C: terror on every side!—

P: as they scheme together against me,

C: as they plot to take my life.

P: But I trust in you, O Lord;

C: I say, “You are my God.”

P: My times are in your hand;

C: rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

P: Make your face shine on your servant;

C: save me in your steadfast love!

P: O Lord, let me not be put to shame,

C: for I call upon you;

P: let the wicked be put to shame;

C: let them go silently to Sheol.

P: Let the lying lips be mute,

C: which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and contempt.

P: Oh, how abundant is your goodness,

C: which you have stored up for those who fear you

P: and worked for those who take refuge in you,

C: in the sight of the children of mankind!

P: In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men;

C: you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.

P: Blessèd be the Lord,

C: for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city.

P: I had said in my alarm,

C: “I am cut off from your sight.”

P: But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy

C: when I cried to you for help.

P: Love the Lord, all you his saints!

C: The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

P: Be strong, and let your heart take courage,

C: all you who wait for the Lord!

The Second Lesson - Hebrews 4:14-5:9

Jesus was the last, and best, High Priest.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to

the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Hymn 146 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

1. 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!

2. 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!

3. 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!

The Gospel: John 19:17-30

John records for us some of the details of Jesus' crucifixion.

[Jesus] went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Sermon

Offering

Responsive Prayer for Good Friday

P: Heavenly Father, you are a just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how much our sins offend you. We forget that the wages of sin truly is death. We forget that there actually is a hell. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you.

C: Teach us to look to you as the only one who can make us just and right.

P: Today we are reminded not only of your justice, but also of your love. You did not spare your own Son but gave him as a ransom for each one of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of this great love. Give us the peace that the forgiveness of sins brings.

C: When we feel our guilt, point us to the cross where our guilt was washed away in Jesus' blood.

P: Lord Jesus, we thank you for paying the debt that we could not pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in heaven.

C: Thank you for being our perfect Substitute, Lord Jesus.

P: Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished sacrifice for sin, and commended your spirit into the hands of your Father. Teach us to cast the cares of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his love.

C: Give us the courage to face death, knowing that it is the gate to our home in heaven.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we offer our personal thanks for the forgiveness which you have given us, and for the home that you have won for us.

Silent prayer

P: The cross was once an instrument of death. It is now a sign of life.

C: Dear Savior, we humbly kneel at the cross in awe of your power and of your love. Amen.

Matthew 27:57-60

Jesus' burial.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

Please leave in silence after the final Scripture reading. This is to signify the mournful loss of our Savior in his death and the finality of his burial. Consider how much God loves you.