

In View of God's Mercy

A Series of Services for Holy Week

Good Friday: Mercy in the Cross

Order of Service

God made us alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C In the death of Christ we have life.

P Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

C In the death of Christ we have life.

P He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities.

C In the death of Christ we have life.

P Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace.

P With his stripes we are healed.

C In the death of Christ we have life.

P He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

C In the death of Christ we have life. Amen.

Hymn: When I Survey The Wondrous Cross *LSB #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!

Confession and Forgiveness

P The scripture declares: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6). On this solemn day we reflect upon our waywardness and how our sin sent Jesus to die upon the cross.

C Most merciful God, we view our Lord Jesus nailed to the cross. We confess that it is our sin that condemned him to this horrific death. We acknowledge that our transgressions deserve eternal death for us. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who was crucified as the penalty for our sin, forgive us and restore us in righteousness. Renew us so that we honor him who died for us, to the glory of your holy name.

P We cry to you for mercy.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

P Hear the good news! God's Word declares: “the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins so that you might be made righteous through him. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 25:6-9

Epistle Reading ... Colossians 2:13-15

Gospel Reading ... Luke 23:33-49

Hymn: Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted *LSB #451*

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.

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.

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.

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.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Almighty and merciful God, we approach your cross with sorrow over sin.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Remind us of the tremendous sacrifice that Jesus made in his suffering and death.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Rekindle in us a deep appreciation for the pains that he bore for us and for our salvation.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Reconcile us by the blood of Jesus so that we may dwell with you in righteousness.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Restore to us the image of Christ through the blood of the everlasting covenant.

C Lord, have mercy.

P In view of your mercy, move us by your Spirit to respond to Jesus' death by living for him, to the glory of your holy name.

C Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor and glory and blessing.

P For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P May the merciful God, who sent his Son to suffer death on a cross for you, grant you grace to take up your cross and follow him, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: Were You There *LSB #456*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O-oh-oh-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?
O-oh-oh-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?
O-oh-oh-oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Removal of the Christ Candle

Streptitus (*A great noise symbolizes the closing of Christ's tomb.*)

The congregation exits the sanctuary and church building silently, ^[SEP]contemplating the death of Christ and anticipating his resurrection on Easter.