

God's Love Is Shown

A Series of Services for Lent and Holy Week

Good Friday: Sacrificial Love

Order of Service

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Hebrews 10:18

Opening Hymn ... Upon the Cross Extended *LSB #453*

Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended,
Your Savior yields His breath. The Prince of Life from heaven
Himself has freely given To shame and blows and bitter death.

Come, see these things and ponder, Your soul will fill with wonder
As blood streams from each pore. Through grief beyond all knowing
From his great heart came flowing Sighs welling from its deepest core.

Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so sore abused You
And caused you all your woe? We all must make confession
Of sin and dire transgression While you no ways of evil know.

I caused your grief and sighing By evils multiplying
As countless as the sands. I caused the woes unnumbered
With which your soul is cumbered, Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

Your soul in griefs unbounded, Your head with thorns surrounded,
You died to ransom me. The cross for me enduring,
The crown for me securing, You healed my wounds and set me free.

Your cords of love, my Savior, Bind me to you forever,
I am no longer mine. To you I gladly tender
All that my life can render And all I have to you resign.

Your cross I place before me; Its saving pow'r restore me,
Sustain me in the test. It will, when life is ending,
Be guiding and attending My way to your eternal rest.

Invocation and Litany

P In the name of the Father,

C Who gave up his only Son.

P and of the Son,

C Who gave up perfection to suffer and die.

P and of the Holy Spirit,

C Who calls to mind our Lord's passion and fills us with peace. Amen! Amen! Amen!

Confession and Absolution

P This Good Friday we cannot help but acknowledge that it was our sinfulness that hung him on the cross. We cannot blame it on anyone else. It is our fault, our own fault, our own most grievous fault. We come to the Father on this most solemn of Fridays to confess our guilt.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)

C Heavenly Father, I, a poor miserable sinner confess to you all my sins and iniquities. I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have not kept your Son's command to love others. I have not done the good you demand, but instead I have done the evil you forbid. It is my sin that made it necessary for him to go to the cross. On account of his sinless suffering and death I boldly throw myself at your feet and ask for your mercy upon my soul. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.

P God has heard your cry for mercy! It is because of his great love for you that he sent his Son to die. Christ's sacrificial love is the reason your sins are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen! Amen! Amen!

Hymn of Praise ... O Perfect Life of Love *LSB #452*

O perfect life of love! All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above to do for us below.

No work is left undone Of all the Father willed;
His toil, his sorrows, one by one, the Scriptures have fulfilled.

No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;
All forms of human grief and care Have pierced that tender heart.

And on His thorn-crowned head And on His sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.

In perfect love He dies; for me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

In ev'ry time of need, before the judgment throne,
Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, Thy merits, not mine own.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Exodus 12:21-28

Epistle Reading ... Hebrews 10:11-18

Gospel Reading ... John 19:1-42

Sermon Hymn ... In the Cross of Christ I Glory *LSB #427*

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... O Sacred Head, Now Wounded *LSB #450*

O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss 'til now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love to Thee.

Prayers

P Father in heaven, You gave up Your Son to earth so that He would suffer and die as the sacrifice to end all sacrifices. Give us understanding of this so that we do not continually try to appease You, but know and understand that the payment has already been made and the victory over death and hell has been won. Sacrificing Father,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus Christ, You gave up heaven and glory to be one of us yet without sin. You suffered all things for us, because we would not have been able to endure it and be victorious. Grant us the eyes to see how great and immeasurable Your sacrifice was for us, so that we can humbly bow before You, our Lord and king. Sacrificing Son,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as we sit in somber reflection on the sacrificial love that exists for us, and as we try to grasp the ungraspable and think the unthinkable, remind us that all we need do is rest in You, in Your strength, in Your grace, and in Your peace. Give us rest for our souls until the day of the Son's return. Sacrificing Trinity,

C Hear our prayer.

P Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing 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 thro' 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, the Rock of our salvation, Is 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.