



Good Friday

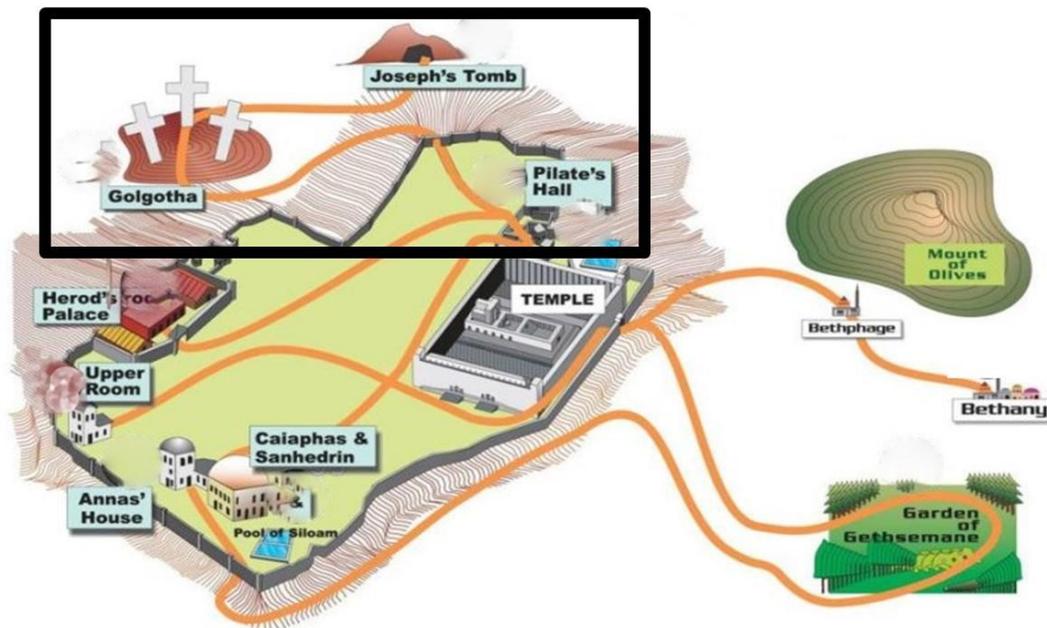
April 2, 2021

Crucifixion

Jesus' words, actions, and life were divisive, even until the moment of his death.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Jesus' Holy Week Journey



Prelude

"Stay with Me"

*You are invited to light a candle in your sacred space
as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

Call to Worship

On this holy day, we keep watch, repent, and pray.
We have followed Jesus' journey to the cross; his death leads to our life.
Come, let us worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of mercy,

Jesus was faithful even in the face of death, yet so often we fail you in day to day living. Our commitment is shaky, our promises are unreliable, and our actions are questionable. We quit when discipleship becomes difficult and complain that we don't get enough credit. Forgive us our neglect of your mission and our lukewarm devotion and wake us up to the urgency of your gospel.

God is gracious and pardons all our shortcomings. May the giver of life forgive us our sins and restore us to the joy of discipleship and service, for the sake of Jesus our faithful Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Red ELW 347 vv.1,2,3

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

Prayer of Day

Steadfast God, Your son followed the path that was set before him, knowing that it would lead to a death sentence. Hold a mirror up to our divided world so that we might truly see how our resistance to love separates us from one another. Receive our prayer for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The community was divided, and Jesus' life was near its end. Tonight, we feel the pain of division and conflict, and our own failure that sent Jesus to the cross.

Invitation to the Word

Red ELW 359 vs. 1

**Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.**

The First Reading

Luke 23:1-5, 14-25

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

"We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."

Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so."

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said,

"He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

Pilate said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together,

"Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"

(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

"Crucify, crucify him!"

A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Prayer

Almighty God, **we recognize our place among the crowd calling for Jesus' death. On this day especially we recognize ourselves as sinners. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. Amen.**

Song

Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

The Second Reading

Luke 23:32-46

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus^[a] there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

"He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah^[a] of God, his chosen one!"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

"If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

"Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into^[a] your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, **who promised to the repentant the joy of paradise, enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come. Amen.**

Song

Ah, Holy Jesus

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

The Third Reading

Luke 23:47-56

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,
“Certainly this man was innocent.”

And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid.

⁵⁶ Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, **who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. O Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Special Music

"Were You There"

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

Lord, we come before you in awe. Words escape us when we attempt to articulate our feelings, thoughts and experiences of your transformational love for us. You, our God, the creator of the universe, the one who spoke life into existence, you chose to become one of us: vulnerable of all that breaks us apart. You came among us in and as, love.

You came to reconcile all that you have made, all that has experienced the power of sin and brokenness. And you reconcile us, as one of us, from a cross. Yes, we come before you in awe and all we can do, is pray.

We pray for your Church throughout the world. For Elizabeth and James, our bishops, for all pastors, all servants of the Church and all people of God...

In awe, we pray to you. **Hear our prayers.**

We pray for the Jewish people, who first heard your word. For those who call to you in different names. For those who do not believe in you, whom you have created and love...

In awe, we pray to you. **Hear our prayers.**

We pray for your creation. For our actions that pollute water, land and air. For efforts that seek to protect and pass on a life giving earth...

In awe, we pray to you. **Hear our prayers.**

We pray for those in public office, that they may seek and care for the poor, outcast, refugee, future generations and the oppressed...

In awe, we pray to you. **Hear our prayers.**

We pray for those in need, the sick, the troubled and afraid, the dying, those who flee for their lives, the hungry, those that wander, those that wonder...

In awe, we pray to you. **Hear our prayers.**

Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

With your eyes fixed on the cross, may the transformational love of God that joins you, transform you and bless you. In the name of the Creator of Life, Savior of Life and Sustainer of Life. **Amen.**

Song

**For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.**

**Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.**

Sending

Go now, knowing the love that you have witnessed on the cross and share the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Stay With Me”



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Prelude: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Assisting Minister: Paul Thomas
- Liturgy leaders: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues, Pam Thomas, Ron Skabo, Gloria Lloyd, Kathy Irwin, Bonnie Yockstick, Marcy Lloyd, Del Felton, Linda Jones, Dave Irwin, Susan Parks
- Soloist: Eric Kurtz
- Special Music: Handbells – Directed by Dave Gleason
Shirley & Larry Bradsby, Martha Mustard, Mike Madsen, Dan Mohrbacher, Paul Thomas, Brenda & Dave Gleason, Susie DiPaolo, Amy Evancheck, Linda TeKrony
- Opening & Closing Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues, Larry Lagerberg, Brenda & Dave Gleason, Karen Novess, Jordan Ortman
- Postlude: Jordan Ortman