

GOOD FRIDAY

A Service of Scripture reading, hymns, and meditation

(The entire service is printed in the bulletin. There is no place during the service for receiving an offering—please leave your gifts in plates at the doors.)

Call to Worship (portions of Psalm 22, read responsively)

Leader: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?*

All: My God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Leader: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

All: In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

Leader: To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

All: But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

Leader: All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads.

All: “Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

Leader: Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

All: On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Leader: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

All: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast.

Leader: My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

All: *They divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.*

Leader: My God, my God, what a sacrifice you made!

All: Tell us why we have read this Psalm today.

Leader: Today we remember our Lord's last days as a human being among human beings. Part of his story was foretold in this Psalm.

All: Come, let us walk with Jesus in his suffering and pain.

Leader: Today we follow our Lord on his way to the cross, the cross on which he suffered, bled, and died for *our* salvation.

All: How could you love us so much, Jesus? So much that you did this for us? For me?

Leader: Today we hear again the story of our Lord's great and awesome love for us—love so strong he had to die so we could believe.

All: Lord, I believe. Help me to believe more. Jesus, go to the garden. Suffer and die for me!

Hymn: 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. (Silence for meditation)

READING: John 18:1-11

Hymn: It happened on that fateful night, when pow'rs of earth and hell arose, against the Son, our God's delight, and friends betrayed him to his foes. (Silence for meditation)

READING: John 18:12-27

Hymn: 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.

Leader: In what ways have I denied you, Jesus? What things have I done to bring such suffering on you?

All: You were guilty of no crime. But you let yourself be punished for my sin.

Hymn: 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 suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Leader: We follow you, Jesus, but it's hard now.

All: We don't want to go any further. (*Silence for meditation*)

READING: John 18:28-38a

Hymn: In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me, lest by base denial I depart from thee. When thou seest me waver, with a look recall; nor from fear or favor suffer me to fall.

Leader: When I fail to trust you, Jesus, it's as if I put you on trial again.

All: My doubts, my fears, my unbelief—for these you proved your love by going willingly to your death. It was for me you suffered! (*silence for meditation*)

READING: John 18:38b-40

Hymn: They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away; a murderer they save, the prince of life they slay. Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes, that he his foes from thence might free, that he his foes from thence might free.

Leader: A bandit, a common criminal, was released.

All: And you went to your death for me. Greater love hath no man than this! (*silence for meditation*)

READING: John 19:1-5

Hymn: 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 till now was thine! Yet though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

Leader: Yes, I call you mine, bleeding Jesus—but do you also call me yours?

All: How can you still love us, Jesus, after all we've done to you? (*Silence for meditation*)

READING: John 19:6-11

Hymn: **How art thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn; how does that visage languish which once was bright as morn! Thy grief and bitter Passion were all for sinners' gain. Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.**

Leader: Mine, mine was the transgression—

All: But yours, O Jesus, was the deadly pain! *(Silence for meditation)*

READING: John 19:12-16a

Hymn: **Sometimes they strew his way and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day hosannas to their King. Then "Crucify" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry; and for his death they thirst and cry.**

Leader: How far away now is Bethlehem, how long ago the tender manger scene!

All: Why should Christmas end this way? We don't want to hear any more!
(Silence for meditation)

READING: John 19:16b-25a

Hymn:

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Leader: Crucifixion! The most painful, shameful way to die. This was how they punished the lowest criminals 2000 years ago.

All: No, Jesus, not you! Not a criminal. You were our *Savior*. God's Son!

Leader: But the people didn't want God's Son to be a healer and a teacher. They wanted a conqueror. That's why they cried out, "Crucify!"

All: No! those nails in his hands and feet, those were our sins. *My sins crucified you, Jesus!* *(Silence for meditation)*

Hymn:

- 1. Deep were his wounds, and red, on cruel Calvary, as on the cross he bled in bitter agony. But they whom sin has wounded sore find healing in the wounds he bore.**
- 2. He suffered shame and scorn, and wretched, dire disgrace; forsaken and forlorn, he hung there in our place. But all who would from sin be free look to his cross for victory. (Silence for meditation)**

READING: John 19:25b-30

Hymn:

- 1. Jesus, in thy thirst and pain, while thy wounds thy lifeblood drain, thirsting more our love to gain; hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2. Thirst for us in mercy still; all thy holy work fulfill; satisfy thy loving will; hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3. May we thirst thy love to know; lead us in our sin and woe where the healing waters flow; hear us, holy Jesus. (Silence for meditation)**

READING: John 19:31-41

Hymn: **Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

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. Amen.**

Hymn:

- 1. Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy Passion; let your Spirit now endow me for meditation. Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish of your suff'ring, pain, and death, that I may not perish.**
- 2. Make me see your great distress, anguish, and affliction, bonds and stripes and wretchedness and your crucifixion; make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails did wound you, how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.**

3. Yet, O Lord, not thus alone make me see your Passion. But its cause to me make known and its termination. For I also and my sin wrought your deep affliction; this the shameful cause has been of your crucifixion.

4. Let me view your pain and loss with repentant grieving, nor prepare again your cross by unholy living. May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior, that I may in heav'n above sing your praise forever.

There is no benediction or dismissal. This service continues on Easter Sunday, when we gather to celebrate God's final victory over death in the resurrection of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

St. Stephen Worship at 7am, Followed by breakfast at 8am
St. John Communion Worship at 9am



