



St. John Lutheran Church Good Friday Service

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Secretary Hours: M-F, 9am-1pm
Office Phone: 715-352-2524

Pastor Gail Sowell

April 10, 2020

*Good Friday
Service of Meditation*

Pastor's cell: 715-352-2492
(also for Pastoral emergencies)
Office Hrs: T-F, 9am-1pm
and by appointment

Worship: 9:00am

Sunday School: 9:15am

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: For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled.

St. John/St. Stephen Lutheran Parish ELCA, Mission Statement:

"Saints united to be the body of Christ in the world, freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully."

Leader: I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me.

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

(end of Psalm)

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. God, Jesus—go to the garden. Suffer and die for me!

Hymn 109 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

verse 1 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.

FIRST READING John 18:1-11

Hymn 127 “It Happened on that Fateful Night”
(sing to “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast”)

verse 1 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.

SECOND READING John 18:12-27

Hymn 123 “Ah, Holy Jesus”

verse 2 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 109 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

verse 2 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.

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

All: We don’t want to go any further.

THIRD READING John 18:28-38a

Hymn 106 “In the Hour of Trial”

verse 1 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 death. It was for me you suffered!

FOURTH READING John 18:38b-40

Hymn 94 “My Song is Love Unknown”

verse 5 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 suffering 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!

FIFTH READING John 19:1-5

Hymn 117 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

verse 1 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?

SIXTH READING John 19:6-11

Hymn 117 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

verse 2 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!

SEVENTH READING John 19:12-16

Hymn 94 "My Song is Love Unknown"

verse 3 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!

EIGHTH READING John 19:17-24

Hymn 92 "Were You There?" verses 1-2

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!

Offering

Hymn 100 "Deep Were His Wounds" verses 1-2

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.

NINTH READING John 19:25-30

Hymn 112 "Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes" verses 13-15

13. Jesus, in thy thirst and pain, while thy wounds thy lifeblood drain, thirsting more our love to gain: hear us, holy Jesus.

14. Thirst for us in mercy still; all thy holy work fulfill; satisfy thy loving will; hear us, holy Jesus. *(continues on p.6)*

Hymn 112 "Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes" (continued) verse 15

15. May we thirst thy love to know; lead us in our sin and woe where the healing waters flow; hear us, holy Jesus.

TENTH READING John 19:31-42

Hymn 92 "Were You There?"

verse 3 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 REFLECTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymn 115 "Jesus, I will Ponder Now"

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. You may remain to pray and meditate, or depart in silence.

Martin Luther, writing during the Bubonic plague of the 1500's:

(Referenced by Bishop Laurie in her sermon, on page 2)

" I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I will fumigate, purify the air, administer medicine, and take medicine. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order to not become contaminated, and thus perchance inflict and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me. But, I have done what he has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death, or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely. This is a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy, and does not tempt God."—Martin Luther



Below is a beautiful poem speaking to our dealing with, and eventual recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic.

<i>And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply.</i>	⋮	<i>And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.</i>
<i>Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.</i>		
<i>And the people began to think differently.</i>		

This poem was written by Kitty O'mara, and appeared in the "Dear Annie" section of the Wausau Daily Herald, April 6, 2020 on page 4B.