



Good Friday

April 2, 2021

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"A Good Death"

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As We Gather

Christians around the world gather on this solemn day to remember the greatest sacrifice of love the world has ever seen. Even the anticipated celebration of our Lord's resurrection cannot diminish the horror at the sight of the very Son of God hanging on a cross in our place—stricken, smitten, and afflicted for us and for our salvation, because of our sin. In quiet reflection we ponder the great cost by which we receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. A celebration: how ironic our remembering our Lord's betrayal, suffering, death, and resurrection, and seeing the "good" in Good Friday.

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

PROPHECY OF OUR LORD'S SUFFERING (Isaiah 53)

P Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

C He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

P He had to beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.

C He was despised and rejected by His people; a man of sorrows familiar with suffering.

P Like one from whom we hide our faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

C Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrow, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LSB 451 v. 1

1 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.

P But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;

C the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

P We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;

C and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LSB 451 v. 2

2 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 intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.

P He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth;
C He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.
P He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death,
C though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LSB 451 v. 3

3 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.
P After the suffering of His soul, He will see the light of life and be satisfied;
C by His knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities.
P Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.
C For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LSB 451 v. 4

4 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.
P *Let us pray.* Almighty God, graciously regard us as Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, given into the hands of sinners, and suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

(The writer reminds us that in death, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for us all. Having "been there" He knows our suffering.)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, when You came into this world of sin You were tested and tempted in every way. Yet You did not sin, but took the punishment for our sin.
C Heavenly Father, we admit and confess that we are weak. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions. Have mercy on us, we pray, for the sake of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ.
P God has had mercy on us. Because of Jesus, His innocent suffering and death, our sins are forgiven. If we have been united with Him in a death like this, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.
C Thanks be to God!

- 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.
- 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.
- 3 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.

Message: "A Good Death"

Offering:

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

FIRST WORD: John 19:14-16; Luke 23:32-34

¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace: You did not seek revenge on those who tormented You. Grant us grace to forgive those who hurt us, to overcome evil with good, to love our enemies for Your sake, and as children of the heavenly Father, see Your peace, and evermore rejoice in Your love.

C Amen.

(The first candle is extinguished)

SECOND WORD: Luke 23:35-43

³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

P Lord Jesus, while You hung on the cross You showed mercy to the dying thief. With that mercy look on us also, we pray, and at our last hour, comfort us with Your promise that we will dwell forever in paradise with You. **C Amen.**

(The second candle is extinguished.)

THIRD WORD: John 19:25-27

²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

P Lord Jesus, while You suffered the agony of the cross, You remembered in love Your sorrowing mother. With that same love and pity bless all parents, especially those whose hearts are torn by the loss of loved ones or burdened with worry over their children. In Your mercy, gather all within the peace of Your cross, so that parent and child will love each other as they love You.

C Amen.

(The third candle is extinguished)

FOURTH WORD: Matthew 27:45-47

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah."

P Heavenly Father, Your Son cried "Why have You forsaken me?" In time of trial and suffering, do not turn away from us, but give us Your presence and Your power that enable us to endure whatever may be set before us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

(The fourth candle is extinguished)

FIFTH WORD: Matthew 10:38-42, John 19:28-29

[Jesus told His disciples,]³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ⁴⁰"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴²And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

P Lord Jesus Christ, You endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place. We thirst for the healing that only You can provide. Strengthen us to carry our burdens and to endure our sufferings by the grace of Your holy example, always giving You thanks or Your love.

C Amen.

(The fifth candle is extinguished)

SIXTH WORD: Hebrews 9:11-12, 15, 27-28 and John 19:30

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your father. Complete in us everythink You intend for us so that as children of the heavenly Father, we may live for His glory.

C **Amen.**

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

SEVENTH WORD: Luke 23:44-46 and Matthew 27:54

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

(Pause for meditation)

⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

P Lord Jesus Christ, as You gave Your life on the cross in our place, You commended Your spirit into the loving hands of Your heavenly Father. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things. When our last hour comes, grant us peace that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the hands of our heavenly Father.

C **Amen.**

(The seventh candle is extinguished)

[The Christ candle is carried out. During the darkness the congregation is invited to meditate silently on Christ's suffering and death. After a time, a loud noise symbolizes the earthquake the time of Christ's death. After the loud noise, the Christ candle returns, symbolizing that even though our redemption is complete, we will wait for it to be realized – as we await Easter joy.]

P Great God,
C **You are the giver of everything we know and of all that we have.**
P Direct us . . .
C **that we too may see the goodness of this day, even in the midst of uncertainty and sadness.**
P Show us . . .
C **that not all our shadows need to be fearsome; that it is our fears only which bring unwelcome darkness.**
P Guide us . . .
C **into Your paradise that awaits us and in knowing Your perfect peace.**
P Grant us . . .
C **a richer awareness of the hope You have sent to us in Your Son, Jesus.**

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436 v. 4

4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

The Service Ends.

There is no BLESSING, no DISMISSAL,
No NOTICES or ANNOUNCEMENTS and no end of service USHERING.

*You are invited to stay sitting or kneeling for as long as you wish to pray or simply meditate,
in silence, before the Cross.*

*When you are ready, please rise and DEPART in Silence
and without Ceremony.*