



At the Foot of the Cross

Pre-service Music

Opening Prayer

P: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, mocked, ridiculed, and suffer death on the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—one God—now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”
Christian Worship 105 st. 1, 4-6

1. O sacred head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded,
With thorns your only crown,
O sacred head, no glory
Now from your face does shine;
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call you mine.
4. My burden in your passion,
Lord, you have borne for me,
For it was my transgression,
My shame, on Calvary.
I cast me down before you;
Wrath is my rightful lot.
Have mercy, I implore you;
Redeemer, spurn me not!
5. What language shall I borrow
To thank you, dearest Friend,
For this, your dying sorrow,
Your pity without end?

Oh, make me yours forever,
And keep me strong and true;
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love for you.

6. My Savior, then be near me
When death is at my door,
And let your presence cheer me;
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
Oh, leave me not alone,
But take away my anguish
By virtue of your own!

We Acknowledge Our Sinfulness

P: O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me.

C: Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

P: O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

Congregation responds

(the response will be played once, the congregation will join to sing the second time it is played)



I cry a-loud to the Lord. I raise my voice to God; I



cry a-loud to the Lord, my God. Lord, have mer- cy.

P: All my longings lie open before you, O LORD; my sighing is not hidden from you. My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes. For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin. O LORD, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God. Come quickly to help me, O LORD, my Savior.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Have mercy and forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Congregation responds



I cry a-loud to the Lord. I raise my voice to God; I



cry a-loud to the Lord, my God. Lord, have mer- cy.

We Rejoice in our Forgiveness

P: Jesus lived for us. Jesus died for us. Jesus rose again for us. In his great mercy God has made us alive even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Hear the gracious assurance of Christ our Savior through a servant of his Gospel: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Congregation responds

I cried a-loud to the Lord. I raised my voice to God; I
cried a-loud to the Lord, my God. You had mer-cy.

P: O gracious Lord and Savior, we are terrified by your justice which you pronounce on our disobedience and rebellion. Although we believe our works should be acceptable, nothing could be further from the truth. In complete humility, we fall before you and plead for mercy. How blessed we are that you are also gracious. You do not deal with us as our sins deserve. Therefore we ask you, for the sake of your love and the merits of your Son to forgive us. Purify not only our hearts, but also our lives that we can come before you as dear children. So bless us by your undeserved love that we follow you throughout this life until we come to the never-ending peace of heaven. There we will praise you—Father, Son, and Spirit—throughout endless ages.

C: A ——— men.

The Lessons of Jesus' Passion
"A Promise Made, a Promise Fulfilled"

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹³Look, my servant will succeed. He will rise. He will be lifted up. He will be highly exalted. ¹⁴Just as many were appalled at him— his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like

a man, and his form was disfigured more than any other person—
¹⁵so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him, because they will see something they had never been told before, and they will understand something they had never heard before.

^{53:1}Who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot and like a root from dry ground. He had no attractiveness and no majesty. When we saw him, nothing about his appearance made us desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man who knew grief, who was well acquainted with suffering. Like someone whom people cannot bear to look at, he was despised, and we thought nothing of him.

⁴Surely he was taking up our weaknesses, and he was carrying our sufferings. We thought it was because of God that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted, ⁵but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced.

He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers, he did not open his mouth. ⁸He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice, and of his generation, who even cared? So, he was cut off from the land of the living. He was struck because of the rebellion of my people. ⁹They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked, but he was given a grave with the rich in his death, because he had done no violence, and no deceit was in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and to allow him to suffer. Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring. He will prolong his days, and the LORD's gracious plan will succeed in his hand. ¹¹After his soul experiences

anguish, he will see the light of life. He will provide satisfaction. Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many, for he himself carried their guilt.

¹²Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great, and with the strong he will share plunder, because he poured out his life to death, and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners. He himself carried the sin of many, and he intercedes for the rebels.

Congregation sings

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”
Christian Worship 127 st. 1 & 3

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.

If you think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see 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.

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

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

^{5:7}In the days of his flesh, he offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. ⁹After he was brought to his goal, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.

Congregation sings

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”
Christian Worship 127 st. 2 & 4

Tell me, as you hear him groaning,
Was there every 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.

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ’s the rock of our salvation,
His 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.

John 19:17-30

¹⁷Carrying his own cross, he went out to what is called the Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him with two others, one on each side, and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate also had a notice written and fastened on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.”

²⁰Many of the Jews read this notice, because the place where

Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that ‘this man said, “I am the King of the Jews.”””

²²Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

²³When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took his tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it. Instead, let’s cast lots to see who gets it.” This was so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

They divided my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.

So the soldiers did these things.

²⁵Jesus’ mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son!” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother!” And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, “I thirst.”

²⁹A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished!” Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

P: Stand in awe of him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised nor detested the affliction of the afflicted. He has not hidden his face from him, but when he cried out to him, he heard.

C: Thanks be to God!

Hymn of the Day

“Oh, Perfect Life of Love”
Christian Worship 138

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, you died to make me free!

In ev'ry time of need, before the judgment throne,
Your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, your merits not my own.

Sermon

Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The Impassioned Prayers of the Passion _____

"Father, into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit!"

A Prayer of unmistakable faith

A Prayer of unmistakable love

The Confession of our Christian Faith:

*(We unite in the words of Luther's Explanation
to the Second Article of the Apostles Creed)*

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the
Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin**

Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

Handbells

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Arranged by Jason W. Krug

Published by Choristers Guild

Evening Thanksgiving and Prayer

Evening Prayer

P: Heavenly Father, you are a righteous and just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how our disobedience offends you. We forget the wages of sin truly is death. We reject there is a hell prepared as a place of punishment for all who transgress your commandments. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you.

C: Teach us to look to you as the only one who can make us just and right.

P: Today we are reminded not only of your justice but also of your love. You did not spare your only Son but gave him as a ransom for each of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of your undeserved love. Give us the peace that only the forgiveness of sins can bring.

C: When we feel the burden of our guilt, point us to the cross. Here our guilt and every sinful stain is washed away by Jesus' blood.

P: Lord Jesus, we thank you for going to the cross in our place. We thank you for paying the debt we could never pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in heaven.

C: For being our perfect substitute and merciful Savior, we thank you, Lord Jesus.

P: Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished and complete sacrifice for sin. Then, you commended your spirit into the hands of your Father. Teach us to cast the cares of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his love.

C: Give us the courage to face death, knowing it is the gate to our eternal home in heaven.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we offer our personal thanks and praise for the forgiveness you have secured, for the peace you have provided, and for the home you have prepared in heaven.

Silent Prayer

P: The cross was once an instrument of shame and death. Now it is a sign of life and hope.

C: Dear Savior, we humbly kneel at the cross in awe of your power and your unselfish love. Thankful for your precious work we confidently pray —

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen!**

The Improperia (Reproaches)

*We speak the Improperia, because in them we hear
the voice of Jesus reproaching us for our sins which
brought him to death and the grave.*

✠ The First Reproach

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me! For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered your Redeemer to be scourged. I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people!

Holy Lord and God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, do not abandon us to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy on us.

Congregation sings

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”
Christian Worship 268 st. 1

Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!

✠ The Second Reproach

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me! For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty Lord, most holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, never allow us to lose hope in the face of our enemies. O Lord, have mercy.

Congregation sings

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”
Christian Worship 268 st. 2

Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!

✠ **The Third Reproach**

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me! What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank the Lord your God? O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

Congregation sings

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”
Christian Worship 268 st. 3

Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o’er us:
Your peace be with us, O Jesus!

Closing Response in Hope of the Resurrection

P: I will declare your name to my brothers.

In the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

You who fear the LORD, praise him!

For he has not despised nor detested the affliction of the afflicted.

He has not hidden his face from him,
But when he cried out to him, he heard.

P: We adore you, O Christ!

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The pastor will exit the chancel. Please leave the sanctuary quietly and refrain from speaking until outside.

Announcements

This evening—*Welcome in our Savior's Name!* May the blessing of our faithful Savior, and the peace which comes from his suffering and death on the cross, give you new life, new hope, and new strength. If you are visiting us this morning, please sign our guest book, and visit us again—soon!

Saturday—Please have flowers for the memory garden to the church by 5:00 pm.

Sunday, April 9th is Easter Sunday. In Person Worship and Live-streaming at 9:30 am. Easter Sunday is more than the culmination of our Lenten worship, it is the completion of the work Jesus did to secure our rescue. The devil is defeated. Death has been overpowered. The grave holds no terror. All this is ours' because Jesus lives!

- Following the service there will be a brunch.—all are invited!

Thank You

To Al Todd for serving as our pianist and operating Hymnosft; to Jim Everson and Josh Schueler for controlling the audio and video for the live-stream.



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