



GOOD FRIDAY, March 25, 2016
ORDER OF WORSHIP
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, Illinois

It is our prayer that this sacred Good Friday service will properly prepare our hearts and minds, as we remember Christ's holy death on the Cross, to more joyfully and thankfully received the glad news of Easter Day.

Along with other Scripture readings, Psalm 22 is read as a further reminder of Christ's anguish on the cross. It is perhaps the very psalm He was reciting during the last hours of his death.

The Seven Last Words of Christ conclude our service. They are symbolized by the lighted candles. After each word is spoken, a candle will be extinguished, indicating that Jesus came closer to the moment of His death.

After the last Word is spoken and the last candle is extinguished, only the one candle remains lighted, representing the light of God's love. And like God's love, though it may for a brief time seem to be not visible, it reappears and never dies, but awaits the glorious light that came bursting from the open tomb on Easter morning. It is in anticipation of that light that we present this Holy Hour of Worship.

Opening Hymn: No 351 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Responsive Reading:

P: What's happening? Why are you here?

C: We have come because they have crucified our Lord.

P: Who has crucified your Lord?

C: The soldiers, at Pilate's command.

P: But I heard you yell crucify in the awful silence of your souls.

C: All we, like sheep, have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquities of us all.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (All)

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; Forgive my sins, Give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

Psalm 22:1-8 (Read Responsively)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the word of my groaning?

**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**

Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.**

They cried out to you and were delivered;

They cried out to you and were delivered;

**But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

**"Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.**

Hymn No. 337 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 53

Gospel Lesson: John 19:17-30

Sermon

Silence for Reflection

Hymn No. 349 Ah, Holy Jesus

Offering and Offertory Anthem:

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

P: Let us remember Jesus, who though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor and dwelt among us: Who was content to be subject to his parents:

Who lived and toiled for nearly 30 years in the common life.

C: May this mind be in us, that was in Jesus Christ.

P: Let us remember Jesus, who was healing the sick, but who warned against easy solutions. Who was Master and Lord, and also friend.

C: May this mind be in us, that was in Jesus Christ.

P: Let us remember Jesus, who loved his people, but who wanted to be alone to pray.

Who prayed for his disciples; who prayed for forgiveness for those who persecuted Him. Who prayed for those who received Him.

C: May this mind be in us, that was in Jesus Christ.

P: Let us remember Jesus, who believed in people and did not lose heart; who disregarded himself and became obedient unto death, even death of the cross.

C: May this mind be in us, that was in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn No. 353 Were You There?

THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

The First Word: Father, Forgive them for they know not what they do.

The Second Word: Today shall you be with me in Paradise.

The Third Word: Woman, behold your son! Son, behold your mother!

The Fourth Word: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

The Fifth Word: I thirst.

The Sixth Word: It is finished

The Seventh Word: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit

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 and ever. Amen

The service closes in silence, and each worshiper is asked to leave the church quietly and reverently this Good Friday night, thinking on the death of Christ.