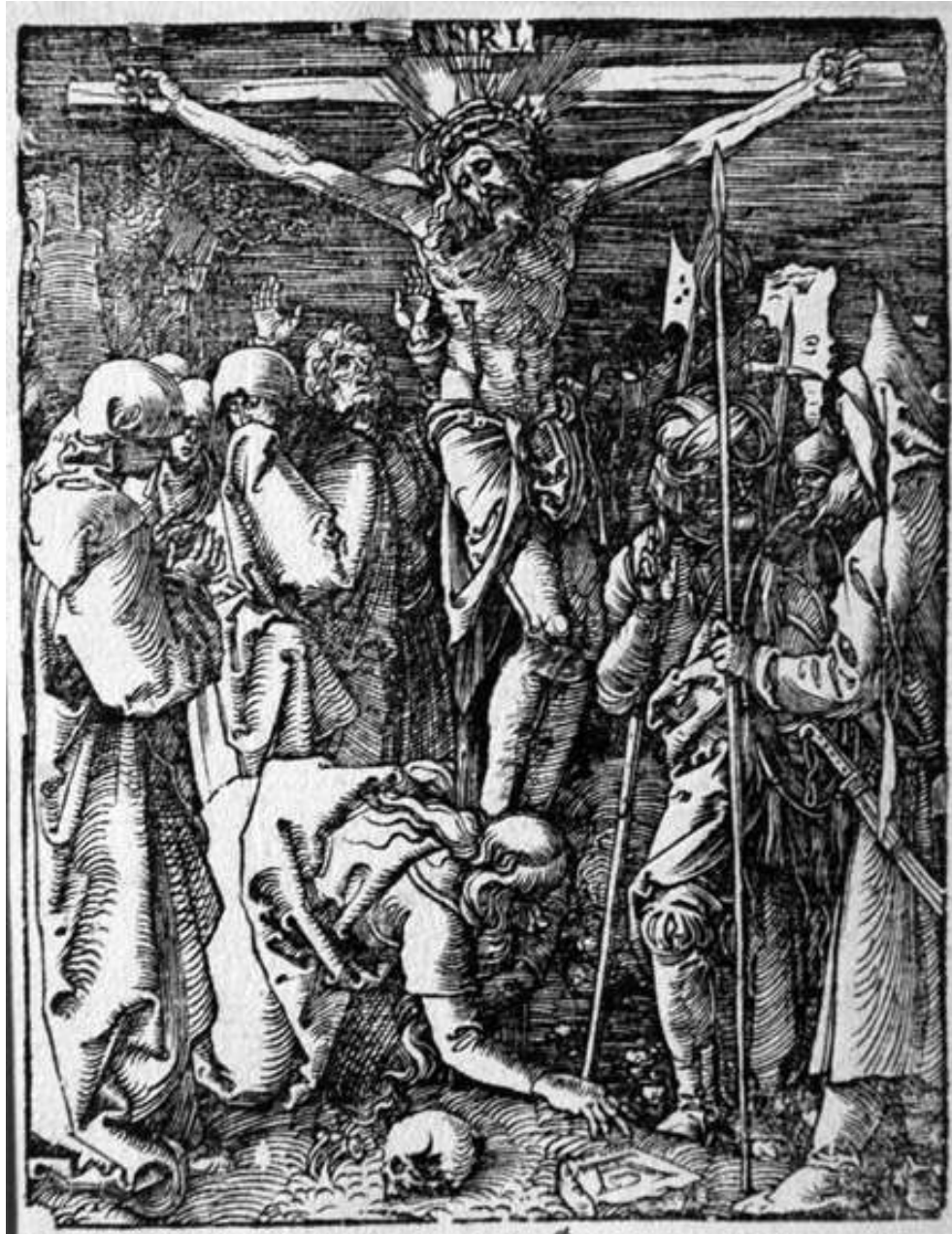


Good Friday

March 25, 2016



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Good Friday, 2016 — Lessons from Isaiah and the Gospels

We gather quietly to consider the words of forgiveness, paradise, human care, divine suffering, thirst, completion, and committal that our Savior Jesus Christ spoke from the cross. Suitable prayers before worship can be found in Christian Worship, p.10-11.

Pastor's Introduction to the Service:

Dear friends in Jesus Christ. The service of worship for this Good Friday is taken from an early Christian service called tenebrae, a Latin word for "shadows" or "darkness." The unique feature of this service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord Jesus, remains. As it gets darker and darker we can reflect on the great emotional and physical pain that was very real for Jesus that evening. Prior to the extinguishing of each candle, we will be pondering one of the seven times that the Bible records Jesus speaking from the cross. Each of those sayings of Jesus will be introduced by a parallel reading from the Prophet Isaiah which either prophesies or gives deeper meaning to those words that Jesus spoke. **Toward the end of the service, the last candle, the "Christ candle" is extinguished, symbolizing the apparent victory of Satan. But later, following Absolution and the Lord's Prayer, the Christ candle is relit, anticipating Christ's resurrection and the joy of Easter that will soon be celebrated.** By this single light we will all depart this service in silence as we begin our anticipation of Easter.

Invitation to Good Friday — **"Go to Dark Gethsemane" (by Koine)**

Please stand

Reading — *Isaiah 52:13-53:11*

Prayer for Good Friday:

M: Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

The First Word : Undeserved Forgiveness

Readings — *Isaiah 53:12 and Luke 23:32-34*

Prayer:

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus our Savior, at your crucifixion you spoke not a curse but a blessing. We confess that it is our sin that led you to suffer the punishments of hell in our place. Forgive us, and help us by your Holy Spirit to measure the depths of your undying love for us.

C: Amen.

Hymn 112 — **"There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"**

Brief silence for meditation.

A candle is extinguished.

The Second Word: Paradise

Readings — *Isaiah 65:17-19 and Luke 23:39-43*

Prayer:

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus our Savior, by your suffering and death you have won eternal life for all who trust in you. Remember us today as you remembered the penitent thief on the day of your crucifixion, and strengthen our faith through your promise of paradise.

C: Amen.

Hymn 138 — **“Oh, Perfect Life of Love”**

Brief silence for meditation.

A candle is extinguished.

The Third Word: Human Care

Readings — *Isaiah 58:6-8 and John 19:25-27*

Prayer:

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus our Savior, by your perfect love you provided care for your mother and righteousness for all who trust in you. Lead us always to turn to you for comfort and relief, for you have promised to supply us with everything we need for body and life.

C: Amen.

Hymn 139 — **“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”** — Verses 1-3

Brief silence for meditation.

A candle is extinguished.

The Fourth Word: Divine Suffering

Readings — *Isaiah 53:3-4 and Matthew 27:45-46*

Prayer:

M: Let us pray.

(Hymn 139, verse 4 — spoken)

Jesus, plunged in depths unknown
With our evil foe alone,
While no light from heaven is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

C: Amen.

Anthem — **“Glory Be to Jesus”** (by *Koine*)

Brief silence for meditation.

A candle is extinguished.

The Fifth Word: Thirst

Readings — *Isaiah 49:8-10 and John 19:28-29*

Prayer:

M: Let us pray.

Son of Man, you suffered hunger in the wilderness, you wept at the grave of Lazarus, and you thirsted as your life ebbed away. You were tempted in every way just as we are, yet you are without sin. We praise you, Lord Jesus, our Rock and our Redeemer.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Hymn 139 — **"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"** — verses 5-7

Brief silence for meditation.

A candle is extinguished.

The Sixth Word: Completion

Readings — *Isaiah 53:4-6 and John 19:30*

Prayer:

M: Let us pray.

Your works, not mine, O Christ
Speak gladness to this heart.
They tell me all is done;
They bid my fear depart.
To whom but you, who can alone
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

C: Amen.

Hymn 117, verses 1-4 — **"Oh, Dearest Jesus"**

Brief silence for meditation.

A candle is extinguished.

The Seventh Word: Committal

Readings — *Isaiah 42:5-7 and Luke 23:46*

Prayer:

M: Lord, let at last your angels come;

To Abram's bosom bear me home

That I may die unfearing.

And in its narrow chamber keep

My body safe in peaceful sleep

Until your reappearing.

And then from death awaken me

That my own eyes with joy may see,

O Son of God, your glorious face,

My Savior and my Fount of grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend

And I will praise you without end.

C: Amen.

Responsive Reading of Psalm 22:

Psalm 22 was spoken by Jesus through the pen of King David. A thousand years before he took on human flesh Jesus shared with us the details of his suffering and death and the anguish he would experience as his Heavenly Father forsook him.

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

C: Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

M: My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

C: By night, and am not silent.

M: I am a worm and not a man,

C: Scorned by men and despised by the people.

M: All who see me mock me;

C: They hurl insults, shaking their heads:

M: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

C: Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

M: Do not be far from me,

C: For trouble is near and there is no one to help.

M: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

C: My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

M: My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

C: You lay me in the dust of death.

M: Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,

C: They have pierced my hands and my feet.

M: I can count all my bones;

C: People stare and gloat over me.

M: They divide my garments among them

C: And cast lots for my clothing.

M: But you, O LORD, be not far off;

C: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

Brief silence for meditation.

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

OFFERING

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION, based on Psalm 51:

M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

C: I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

M: **Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven."** His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

C: (spoken) Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

Please be seated.

The Christ Candle is relit in the sure hope of the Resurrection and anticipation of Easter Sunday.

Hymn 117, verses 5-7 – **"O Dearest Jesus"**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please depart this service quietly.



Easter Sunday Activities

7:30 am Easter Sunrise Service (with Communion)

8:30 am Easter Breakfast

10:30 am Easter Festival Service (no Communion)

