

LOVE – A Matter of Death and Life



“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us...” (1 John 3:16)

GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON

April 2, 2021

1 p.m.

WELCOME to worship on Good Friday. During our service today, think deeply about the love your Savior has for you. Think seriously about how you can show and share his love with others. Jesus' love is a matter of death and life.

THE LORD'S SUPPER, which we celebrate today, is an evidence and an expression of the unity of faith shared by those who commune together. For that reason, we ask that only persons who are members of congregations in fellowship with the WELS participate in the sacrament with us. Other guests are encouraged to speak to our pastor for information about participating in the Lord's Supper in the future.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Because of our Good Friday custom of leaving our place of worship in silence at the end of the service, we offer the announcements before worship begins.

We Worship Our Savior

THE OPENING HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

CW, #125

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 25:4-6 and Psalm 119:76)

- L: "Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths;
C: **Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**
- L: Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old."
C: **Oh Lord, "may your unfailing love be my comfort," today and always.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- L: Who may appear in your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on you for help?
C: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart; he shall receive blessings from the Lord.**
- L: Dearest Savior, the darkness of your hours on the cross surrounds us. We remember the agony and evil you faced for us. We are grateful for your faithfulness which carried you to this depth of love, that for us and our sin you were sacrificed and died. Knowing that in you and through your love we find true comfort in our time of need, we come to confess our sins.
C: **O most holy and righteous Lord, I confess my sins to you. My thoughts, words, and actions give testimony to the struggles that dwell within me. Though I try to fight the sin nature inside me, I struggle even as the Apostle Paul did, when he said, "For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out...the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing." Lord, hear my cry for mercy and forgive me for all my sins. Rescue me for the sake of your holy precious blood, shed for me on the Good Friday cross.**
- L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God's peace be yours through this good news of his love.

THE SEVEN WORDS

FIRST WORD Luke 23:26-34

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then ""they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is

dry?” Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

PRAYER RESPONSE THE FIRST WORD

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, touch us with your hands which were pierced with nails for the sins of the world. Forgive all our sins, dear Lord, the ones we know and the ones we are not even aware of. Move us, in response to your great love, to forgive others, O Lord, for your endless mercy's sake. Amen.

SECOND WORD Luke 23:38-43

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

PRAYER RESPONSE THE SECOND WORD

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, look on us with your great compassion, even as you looked upon the thief on the cross, that with him we may confess our sins and ask, humbly, ‘Lord remember us when you come into your kingdom,’ and by your same voice comfort us, for your gracious mercy's sake. Amen.

HYMN

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

CW, #139:1,2,6

Vocalists: Jesus, in your dying woes,
Even while your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for your foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus!

Cong: Jesus, pitying the sighs
Of the thief who near you dies,
Promising him paradise:
Hear us, holy Jesus!

Cong: Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All your Father's will obeyed,
By your suff'rings perfect made:
Hear us, holy Jesus!

THIRD WORD John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

PRAYER RESPONSE THE THIRD WORD

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, fill us with your love as in your pain you did comfort your mother, and provide for her need, and gave her both home and son. To such love, without compare, without limit, lead us, O Lord, now and forever. Amen.

FOURTH WORD Matthew 27:45-49

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

PRAYER RESPONSE THE FOURTH WORD

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, fill us with faith that clings to the one true God, even as in your agony you cried to your Father, 'My God, my God.' Let no suffering, no shadow of doubt darken our trust in God, nor separate us from our Father in heaven, now or ever. Amen.

HYMN

"Christ the Life of All the Living"

CW, #114:1-3,6

Christ, the Life of all the living,
Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe --
Through thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou, ah, thou hast taken on thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee,
O thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou has suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me.
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

MEDITATION ON THE WORD

1 John 3:16 “Love: A Matter of Death and Life”

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

FIFTH WORD John 19:28-29

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

PRAYER RESPONSE THE FIFTH WORD

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, lead us to see your thirst as you suffered in your humanity, that we might drink from your love and never thirst again, but live in your Father’s house forever, for your tender mercy’s sake. Amen.

SIXTH WORD John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

PRAYER RESPONSE THE SIXTH WORD

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, give us your strength as you resolved to do your Father's work and finish it. Each morning and evening we live in hope, knowing that your great work for us is completed, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

HYMN

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

CW, #104:1,3

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 of Jesus Christ to pray.

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 of Jesus Christ to die.

SEVENTH WORD Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

PRAYER RESPONSE THE SEVENTH WORD

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, give us your trust, unquestioning, complete, as on the cross you committed your spirit to your Father. That whatever may happen, we may rest in the same everlasting arms, comforted by the peace of forgiveness. For your love's sake, we pray. Amen.

VOCALISTS

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

CW, #110:1

My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

THE OFFERING

Thank you for your financial support of God's work at Our Savior through your offerings, whether they're placed in the plates while at worship, dropped off in the church office, directly mailed from banks, or given online through Vanco or through Vanco's mobile giving app *GivePlus Church*.

THE COMMUNION LITURGY

PREPARATION THROUGH PRAYER

- L:** Let us pray for the whole church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord:
- C:** **Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to your Word so that, in every adversity, we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Christ our Lord.**
- L:** Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God:
- C:** **Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.**
- L:** Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism:
- C:** **Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism that each day we may die to sin and rise again to live a new and holy life, through Christ our Lord.**

- L: Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority:
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.**
- L: Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one, true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent:
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.**
- L: Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us:
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and new life in Jesus so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Christ our Lord.**
- L: Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial:
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our griefs and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation so that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief and comfort in your grace, through Christ our Lord.**
- L: Let us pray for those who will receive the Lord's Supper:
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, your Son, our Savior, died for us and shed his blood on the cross for us for the forgiveness of sins. May those who receive in this sacrament the true body and blood of Jesus be strengthened in their faith, enjoy peace in their forgiveness, and be empowered to live godly lives of thanksgiving.**
- L: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us:

ALL: 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

INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION *(We receive the body and blood of Christ in silence and remember the price he was willing to pay for our salvation!)*

THE THANKSGIVING

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

CW, #311:6,8

Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You have left your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forgo all joy and gladness
And to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you,
Let me gladly here obey you.
By your love I am invited;
Be your love with love requited.
By this supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace you give me
As your guest in heav'n receive me.

THE BENEDICTION

HYMN

“Oh, Perfect Life of Love”

CW, #138:1,4-5

Cong: Oh, perfect life of love!
All, all is finished now,
All that he left his throne above
To do for us below.

Vocalists: 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.

Vocalists: In perfect love he dies;
For me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
You died to make me free!

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

*It is customary on Good Friday to leave in silence.
Please refrain from conversation until you enter the lobby area.*

Worship Leader: Staff Minister Tom Hering
Reader: Steve Wolf
Keyboardist: Ann Petermann
Vocalists: Rod & Karen Bollinger



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL SERVICES!

GOOD FRIDAY **7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service (with Lord's Supper)**
(Livestreamed)



EASTER SUNDAY **7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service**
9:30 a.m. Festival Service
(9:30 am Livestreamed)

