

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

537 GRAND AVENUE

BILLINGS, MONTANA

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

April 2, 2021

6:30pm

AS WE GATHER

It seems strange to call this day “good.” After all, on this day, Jesus, our Savior and Lord, was tortured, beaten, spit upon, and brutally crucified on a cross. What is good about that? Actually, the goodness of this day is extensive and amazing. At the cross, God’s plan to redeem the world came to full fruition. Rather than ignore our sin, or eternally turn away from us, God became one of us, and in an act of pure self-sacrifice and love, Jesus willingly suffered death, for us. Today’s service is not a funeral for Jesus. It is a way to remember the events of Jesus’ death—including the allusions to it already in the Old Testament. It is an occasion for us to be drawn closer in love to the God who loves us unconditionally. It is an occasion to weep over our sin that made the crucifixion of Jesus necessary. It is an occasion to rejoice in the forgiveness and peace that comes from putting our faith in our crucified Lord. It is an occasion to marvel at the depth of God’s love for us. Yes, it is Good Friday.

OPENING HYMN 452 “*O Perfect Life of Love*” (Stzs. 1-5)

1. O perfect life of love! All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above To do for us below.
2. No work is left undone Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one, The Scriptures have fulfilled.
3. No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;
All forms of human grief and care Have pierced that tender heart.
4. 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.
5. In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.
O all-aton ing Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTiON

Pastor: We gather before God, remembering the cross in sorrow and in shame. We seek His forgiveness, strength, and mercy. We remember the day of our Savior's death. We mourn and struggle to understand the depth of Christ's love—that He should suffer and die in our place. Father, our hearts are heavy as we gather in the name of Christ, bearing witness to the terror of His crucifixion, knowing full well that we are guilty sinners, in need of Your forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Moment of silence for self-examination and reflection on God's Word.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

SOLO

“*O Come and Mourn*”
– Karla Stricker & Rose Liwosz (Flute)

EPISTLE

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

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

John 18:1–19:42

HYMN

440 “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (Stz. 1)

1. Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff’ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.

READING

John 18:1–11

(Betrayal and arrest of Jesus)

HYMN

436 “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (Stz. 1)

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.

READING

John 18:12–27

(Jesus before the High Priest and the denial of Peter)

HYMN

436 “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (Stz. 2)

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 suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

READING

John 18:28–40

(Jesus before Pilate)

HYMN 436 “*Go to Dark Gethsemane*” (Stz. 3)

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.

READING John 19:1–16a (Jesus prepared for crucifixion)

HYMN 450 “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*” (Stz. 1)

1. O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

READING John 19:16b–24 (The crucifixion of Jesus)

HYMN 450 “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*” (Stz. 2)

2. How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

READING John 19:25–30 (Jesus’ mother and His death)

HYMN 451 “*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*” (Stz. 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.

READING John 19:31–42 (Jesus’ side is pierced)

HYMN 451 “*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*” (Stzs. 2-4)

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.

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.
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.

SERMON

"A Crown of Thorns"

HYMN 434 *"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"*

1. Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!
2. Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!
3. Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: O Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who was raised up on the cross for the redemption of the world, and who did shed Your blood for the forgiveness of all our sins, we pray You, that by the merits of Your holy life, life-giving passion, and death, You may grant to us the privilege of Your mercy to enter into the gates of paradise to dwell with You there in all joy and blessedness, for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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 TENEBRAE

As each sentence of Jesus spoken from the cross is read, two candles will be extinguished and lights of the church will be turned off. After which the Christ candle will be removed symbolizing the death of our Savior. The book will be slammed on the altar symbolizing the closing of the tomb. When the service is over, we all leave in silence and personal reflection and look forward to the Resurrection Victory on Easter!

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS REMOVED

THE SLAMMING OF THE BOOK

(All leave in silence.)

The story is not yet over. Come and share the good news yet to come at the Saturday Easter Service at 5:00pm on Holy Saturday and the Festival of the Resurrection at our Sunrise Service at 6:30am at 1416 Canyon Trail Road and at 6:30, 8:00 & 10:30am on Easter Sunday here at Trinity!



All hymns used by permission - no. 1801154.

PREACHER:

Rev. Daniel Keinath

LITURGIST:

Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht

LAY MINISTER:

Roger Kesler

ACOLYTES:

Cassidy Loughridge & Kimberly Kibel

ORGANIST:

Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche

SOLOIST:

Karla Stricker

FLUTE:

Rose Liwosz

SOUND:

Darryl Magnuson

ALTAR DUTY:

Janine & Rose Liwosz and Laura McCoy