



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, OAKLEY  
GOOD FRIDAY, 2023**

# GOOD FRIDAY ORDER OF SERVICE

[Spoken Order]

HYMNS: 58 part 1 63 75 58 part 2

Organ Voluntary

*[After the voluntary the Congregation stands]*

## THE INVOCATION

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

**C: Amen.**

*[The congregation sits]*

## HYMN 58 part 1

1  
O world, see thy Life languish  
Upon the tree in anguish;  
Thy Lord and Saviour dies.  
The prince of power with meekness  
Submits in mortal weakness  
To blows, and jeers, and railing cries.

3  
I caused Thy grief and trembling  
With sins in sum resembling  
The sand-grains by the sea;  
They sore Thy soul have cumbered,  
And raised those woes unnumbered  
Which press in dark array on Thee.

5  
Thyself, Lord, Thou dost offer,  
And in my stead dost suffer  
The bitter cross for me;  
The crown of thorns Thou wearest,  
The shame and scorn Thou bearest  
For guilt of mine thus patiently.

2  
My Saviour, who hath wrought Thee  
Such pain, and who hath brought Thee  
Such sad and dire disgrace?  
By sin Thou art not tainted,  
Nor is Thy soul acquainted  
With evil like our fallen race.

4  
The pangs that rend Thy spirit,  
I, for my deep demerit,  
Should suffer in Thy stead;  
The fetters and the scourging,  
The tide of sorrow surging  
Round Thee, should break upon my head.

6  
Each hour of life is showing  
How all my good is owing  
To this great love of Thine.  
Each hour I would endeavour  
My soul and body ever  
To Thy blest service to resign.

*[The congregation stands]*

## THE CONFESSION

R: Dear friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

*[The reader and congregation may kneel]*

R: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: He made heaven and earth.**

R: I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

**C: Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.**

R: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to You that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Most merciful God, You have given Your only Son to die for us: Have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us obedient to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*[The reader stands and addresses the congregation]*

R: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become the children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

*[The congregation stands to read the Introit]*

## THE INTROIT

**ALL: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?** Why are You so far from saving Me, from the Words of My groaning?

O My God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, and by night, and I am not silent.

Nevertheless, You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Our fathers trusted in You. They trusted and You delivered them.

They cried to You and were rescued. They **trusted** in You and were **not ashamed**.

However, I am a worm and not a man, **scorned** by human beings and despised by the people.

All those who see Me **ridicule** Me. They open their lips wide. **They shake their heads**, saying, “**Commit it to the LORD! Let Him rescue Him! Let Him deliver Him! For He takes pleasure in Him.**”

Nevertheless, You are the One who brought Me out of the womb, the One who made Me trust while on My mother’s breasts.

I have been cast on You from the womb. From My mother’s womb You have been My God.

Do not be far from Me! For trouble is near, for there is no one to help.

Many bulls have surrounded Me. Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.

They have opened their mouths against Me like a mangling and roaring lion.

I have been poured out like water, and all My bones have separated from each other. My heart has become like wax. It has melted inside my chest.

My strength has dried up like baked clay. My tongue clings to My palate, and You are putting Me on the dust of death.

For dogs have surrounded Me. A gang of evil-doers has encircled Me. Like a lion **they have pierced My hands and My feet.**

I can count all My bones. People look and stare at Me.

**They divide My garments among them, and they cast lots for My clothing.**

However, You, O LORD, do not be far away! O My Strength, come quickly to help Me!

Rescue My soul from the sword! Rescue My lonely soul from the power of the dog!

**Save Me from the lion’s mouth!** You have answered Me from the horns of wild oxen.

**Let Me declare Your name to My brothers! I shall praise You in the middle of the assembly.**

You **who fear** the LORD, **praise Him!** All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him! Be afraid of Him, all you descendants of Israel!

For He has not despised or detested the misery of the Wretched One, and He has not hidden His face from Him. Rather, when He cried to Him for help, He heard.

My praise comes from You in the great assembly. I shall fulfil My vows in the presence of those who fear Him.

Humble people will eat and be satisfied. Those who seek the LORD will praise Him.

May your hearts live for ever!

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD. All the families of **the nations will worship** before **You**.

For **the kingship belongs to the LORD**, and He **rules** over the nations.

All the prosperous people of the earth have been eating and worshipping. All those who go down to the dust will kneel before Him, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

Descendants will serve Him. The coming generation will be told about the Lord.

They will come and tell about His righteousness to a people yet to be born. For He **has accomplished it**.

Psalm 22

THE GLORY TO THE FATHER

**ALL: Glory to the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be for evermore. Amen.**

THE LORD HAVE MERCY

R: Lord, have mercy.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

R: Christ, have mercy.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

R: Lord, have mercy.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

THE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

R: Glory to God in the highest.

**C: And on earth peace, among men with whom He is pleased. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly king, God, the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, You alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

R: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

R: Let us pray:

**ALL: Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*[The congregation sits]*

#### THE FIRST READING

R: The First Reading for this Good Friday, is written in chapter 52 of Isaiah, beginning at verse 13 through to chapter 53, verse 12.

“Look! My Servant will be successful. He will be high, be lifted up and be highly exalted. <sup>14</sup> As there have been many who have been horrified because of You, — since His appearance has been more disfigured than any other man and His form more than any other human being, — <sup>15</sup> so He will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths because of Him. For they will see what they had not been told and will understand what they had not heard.”

<sup>53:1</sup> Who has believed our Message? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> He grew up before Him like a young shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him. He had nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we thought of Him as nothing. <sup>4</sup> Surely, He has taken on Himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows. Yet we considered Him to be wounded, struck down by God and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> However, He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed. <sup>6</sup> We have all gone astray, like sheep. Each one of us has turned to his own way, and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> Although He was oppressed and afflicted, He did not open His mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter and, as a ewe is silent before those who shear off her wool, so He did not open His mouth. <sup>8</sup> He was taken away through oppression and without justice. As for His generation, who considered that He was cut off from the land of the living? Because of the rebellion of my people He was struck down. <sup>9</sup> He assigned His grave with wicked people but was with a rich man in His death, although He had done nothing violent, and there was no deceit in His mouth. <sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, it was the will of the LORD to crush Him with suffering. When You make His life a sacrifice for guilt, He will see His off-spring. He will have a long life, and the will of the LORD will

be successful in His hand. <sup>11</sup> Because of the anguish of His soul, He will see and be satisfied.

“Through His knowledge, My righteous Servant will justify many and bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, I shall divide Him a portion among great people, and He will divide the plunder with strong people, because He poured out His life to death and was numbered with wrongdoers. Nevertheless, He has carried the sin of many people and intercedes for the wrongdoers.”

*After the reading:*

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### THE SECOND READING

R: The Second Reading is written in chapter 4 of Hebrews, verses 14-16, and chapter 5, verses 7-9

Therefore, since we have a great High Priest, who has gone through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us cling to what we confess! <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses. However, we have One who has been tempted in every way like us. Yet He was without sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help us when we need it! ...

<sup>5:7</sup> During His days in the human nature, Jesus offered prayers and petitions, with loud cries and tears, to the One who could save Him from death; and, because He feared God, He was heard. <sup>8</sup> Although Jesus is the Son, He learned obedience from the things that He suffered. <sup>9</sup> When He was perfected, He also became the Source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

*After the reading:*

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Christ humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death; even death on the cross.**

*[The congregation stands for the Gospel]*

#### THE GOSPEL

R: The Holy Gospel is written in the 19th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at verse 17.

**C: Glory be to You, O Lord.**

Jesus went out, carrying His own cross, to the place that was called “the Place of the Skull,” which is called “Golgotha” in Aramaic. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified Him with two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote a notice and put it on the cross. It read: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The notice had been written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, the High Priests of the Jews told Pilate, “Do not write: ‘The King of the Jews,’ but: ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews”!’”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His outer garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier, and also the undergarment. The undergarment was without a seam, woven from the top in one piece. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, they said to one another, “Let us not tear it but let us throw dice for it, to decide who will get it!”

This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: “They divided My outer garments among them and cast lots for My clothing.”

So, that is what the soldiers did.

<sup>25</sup> Jesus’ mother, His mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross of Jesus.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore, when Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, there is your son.” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, “There is your mother.”

From that time on, this disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

<sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine had been placed there. So, they put a sponge full of the sour wine on hyssop and lifted it to His mouth.

<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had taken the sour wine, He said, “It is finished.”

Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

*After the Gospel:*

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.            **C: Praise be to You, O Christ.**

#### THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the**



dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### HYMN 63

1	2
O darkest woe!	O sorrow dread;
Ye tears, forth flow!	God's Son is dead!
Hath earth so sad a wonder?	But by His expiation
God the Father's only Son	Of our guilt upon the cross
Lieth buried yonder.	Gained for us salvation.
3	4
O sinful man	Behold thy Lord,
It was the ban	The Lamb of God,
Of death on thee that brought Him	Blood-sprinkled lies before thee,
Down to suffer for thy sins,	He has given His life that He
And such woe hath wrought Him.	May to life restore thee.
5	6
O happy he	O Jesus blest,
Whose heart doth see	My help and rest,
And rightly comprehendeth	I humbly pray, Lord, hear me:
Why the Lord of glory thus	Make me love Thee to the last,
To the grave descendeth.	And in death be near me.

#### SERMON

*[The congregation stands for the apostolic greeting and the text, and sits for the sermon]*

OUR DYING SAVIOUR'S GLORIOUS, COMFORTING CRY: "IT IS FINISHED"

Sermon for Good Friday John 19:30

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is John 19:30: **When Jesus had taken the sour wine, He said, "It is finished."**

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.  
Dear friends in Christ,

"**It is finished.**" So said our Saviour from His cross. In the original Greek, there is only one word for this utterance<sup>1</sup>, but to translate it into English, we must use three words. As Luther says, this one word was "*an ocean of meaning in a drop of language.*"

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<sup>1</sup> Τετέλεσται (tetelestai)

**“It is finished.”** If we can only imagine the tone in which our Lord uttered the word. It was a conqueror’s cry uttered in a loud voice. It was the cry of one who had completed a tremendous labour and was about to die. **“When Jesus had taken the sour wine, He said, “It is finished.”**

What was it that was finished? It was Jesus Christ’s life’s work and atoning sacrifice on our behalf. Jesus had intervened between our guilty souls and divine justice; He stood in our stead to obey and suffer *on our behalf.* He had begun this work early in life, even as a child. He persevered with it in holy obedience for 33 years. That obedience cost Him many a struggle and fight, many a pang and many a groan, now it was about to cost Him His life, and as He gave away His life to finish His work of obedience to the Father and of redemption for us, He said, **“It is finished.”**

What a wonderful work even to contemplate: the work of our salvation! Only the infinite love of our heavenly Father would have thought of devising such a plan. It was a wonderful work to carry on for so long; only the boundless patience of our Saviour would have continued in it, and now that it requires the offering of Himself and the yielding up of His earthly life, only the mercy and compassion of our divine Saviour, very God of very God, would or could have consummated it by the surrender of His breath.

What an astonishing work it was to purchase our redemption from sin, death, and hell! *Yet it was finished.* His work, which cost Him heart and soul, body and spirit - even His death on the cross - He continued steadfastly till it was accomplished, and could triumphantly say, **“It is finished.”**

And to whom did our Saviour say, **“It is finished”?** He said it to all the world, but also to the Father, for immediately after, He said, *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit”* (Luke 23:46). Jesus, completing His mission, entrusted Himself to His Father by quoting Psalm 31:5.

Dear friends, it is one thing for anyone to say, *“I have finished my work,”* but for Jesus to say that to God the Father; to hang in the presence of the great Reader and Searcher of our hearts - for Jesus to say, as He bowed His head, *“Father, it is finished; I have finished the work which You gave Me to do”* - who but Jesus could venture to make such a declaration as that? We can find a thousand flaws in our best works, and when we lie dying, we shall still have to lament our shortcomings. But with Jesus it was different; there were no shortcomings about Him who died on the cross as a Substitute for us, and unto the Father Himself He could say concerning all His work, **“It is finished.”** How this word proclaims His great glory! Even in the presence of Almighty God, our Saviour and Substitute *was able to claim perfection for all His service.*

And how perfectly and truly He finished it! From the beginning to the end of Jesus’ life, nothing was omitted, no single act of service was left undone; neither was there any action performed in a careless manner. If we begin at Bethlehem and go all the way to Golgotha, looking closely at every portion of Jesus’ life, the private as well as the public, the silent as well as the spoken part, we find that it is finished, complete, and perfect. Our Saviour’s words, **“It is finished,”** proclaims aloud His matchless glory before heaven and earth.

Second, let us consider our dying Saviour’s word, **“It is finished,”** as a word spoken for our comfort.

Jesus spoke these words for our comfort. None of the other words from the cross were addressed to His people but this one. Luther says, *“I cannot believe that, when He was dying, He left His people, for whom He died, without a word. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they*

do,” was spoken to the Father. “I thirst” was for Himself; and so was that bitter cry, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” “Woman, behold thy son,” was for Mary. “Today you will be with me in paradise,” was for the criminal; “Into Your hands I commend my spirit,” was also for the Father. But Jesus, in the hour of death, also had something to say to His people as a whole for the sinful world which He came to save, and this is His dying word for it, “**It is finished.**” Yes, says Jesus to the sinful world, to those for whom He came to lay down His life, “**It is finished.**” the work is done.” What comfort this short word gives!

Furthermore, His suffering and shame are finished. Men will never spit in His face again; the Roman soldiers will never again scourge Him, and no Judas will again betray Him with a kiss. No Pilate will, for a second time, wash his hands saying that he is innocent of His blood. No scribes and Pharisees will again accuse Him; no Jewish mob and Gentile rabble will shout, “*Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!*” (John 19:15). On the contrary, they will flee from Him and cry to the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them from the face of the One who is sitting on the throne.<sup>2</sup>

Further comfort and joy also come as we think that not only are His pangs and sufferings finished, but His Father’s will and word have had a perfect completion or fulfilment.

Certain things that had been written concerning the redemption and salvation of the world have now been fulfilled. There is nothing more to do. By that one word, “**It is finished,**” Jesus declared that He had bruised the head of the serpent, routed the hosts of darkness, and crushed the rising hopes of hell. *The redemption of His people is complete.* Jesus has finished the work that the Father had given Him to do to the complete satisfaction of the Father so that Christ could say to the Father, “**It is finished.**”

There is not another penny to be paid for our full release. Those whom He bought with His blood are forever clear of all charges; all has been paid. There was a handwriting of ordinances against us, but Jesus took it away and nailed it to the cross. It is finished forever. All those overwhelming debts, which would have sunk us to the lowest hell, have been discharged; and they who believe in Christ may appear boldly even before the throne of God itself. “**It is finished.**” What comfort there is in this glorious truth!

Further, when Jesus said, “**It is finished,**” the ultimate triumph of God’s people was secured. He knew that His people would have a fierce battle yet to fight in this world, and nobody could tell what may await the Church of God in years to come, but what of it? Our Lord has defeated the foe, and we have to fight with one who is already vanquished. Let us have faith to claim the victory won through the blood of the Lamb; let every Christian soul, let the whole Church of God, as one mighty army, take comfort from this dying word of the now risen and ever living Saviour, “**It is finished,**” for His work is fully accomplished. Its ultimate triumph is assured.

Yes, when our Saviour said, “**It is finished,**” this was something to make every believer rejoice. With Martha we believe that He is “*the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world*” (John 11:27), and we find in His life and death every mark of the Messiah exhibited. In many books of the Old Testament, certain marks and tokens of Christ had been given, and all have been

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<sup>2</sup> Revelation 6:16

fulfilled, the last of them as He hung upon the cross, even as Moses had lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. His life and death tallied with all that was said of Him by the prophets, and that ought greatly to encourage our faith; for we are not following “*any clever myths*” (2 Peter 1:16), but are following One who must be the Messiah, since He exactly fits all the types and prophecies that were given concerning Him.

And here is included, of necessity, another comforting truth, for when Jesus said, “**It is finished,**” every guarantee was given of the eternal salvation of all believers. Again, Luther says, “*If Christ finished the work for us, He will finish the work in us. If He has undertaken so supreme a labour as the redemption of our souls by His blood, and has called us by His grace and brought us to faith in Him as our Saviour, He will also fulfil the work, that we may be with Him where He is, and behold His glory, and sing His praises with saints and angels evermore.*”

Do any of us try to do something to make a righteousness of our own? God forbid! Jesus says, “**It is finished,**” so why would any of us want to add anything of our own to what He has completed? That would be an insult to His person and work, *as though He had not finished it.* Rather, we cast ourselves on Him; take Him to be everything we need and trust in His work and Word, for He says of the whole work of salvation, “**It is finished.**” Taking Him to be our soul’s atoning Lamb, we see Him dying that we may live; bearing our sin, so we may be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Finally, we see that the word of Jesus on the cross, “**It is finished,**” calls for our eternal gratitude.

Somebody once said, “*Well, if Christ has finished it, there is nothing for me to do now but to fold my hands and go to heaven.*” That is not the speech of a Christian. There is no grace in the heart when the mouth can say such things. On the contrary, the true child of God says, “*Christ has finished His work for me. Now tell me what work I can do for Him.*” In Acts 9, we have the account of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus to Paul the Apostle. After he had been struck down, Jesus spoke to Saul who asked, “*Who are You, Lord?*” He said, “*I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*” <sup>6</sup> *However, get up, go into the city! You will be told what you must do*” (Acts 9:5-6). What would Paul be told what to do? Jesus told Ananias that Paul would be His “*chosen instrument, to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel*” (Acts 9:15). Paul did carry Jesus’ name to Gentiles, gentile rulers, and his own people. Much of the book of Acts tells the story. He would witness to Jesus’ salvation before governors and kings, including Caesar himself.

While not all are called into the ministry of the Lord as Paul was, yet all Christians have similar work to do. Since Christ has finished the work for you that you could not do, namely, earn salvation for you, now go and finish the work for Him that you are privileged and permitted to do, namely, bringing this same Gospel message to the world. Our inference from this saying of Christ, “**It is finished,**” is this - He has finished His work *for me.* Then I must work for Him and persevere until I finish my work, too, not to save myself for that is all done, but because I am saved. Gratitude for His work must now prompt me to work for Him, and as He pressed on till He could say, “**It is finished,**” so I must press on too until by His grace I am able to say, “*By Your help I have finished the work which You have given me to do,*” as the Apostle Paul could say at the end of his course, “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*” (2 Timothy 4:7). The Lord Jesus Christ said, “**It is finished,**” and our hearts should say, “*Lord, I will finish too; not to*

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*mix my work with Yours, but because You have finished Yours, I will finish mine, You the strength supplying.” “It is finished,”* calls for our eternal gratitude.

On this solemn day, may we all rejoice in His finished work, and, rejoicing, let us work for Him, to spread abroad the knowledge of His name to His glory and honour. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

#### HYMN 75

1  
We sing the praise of Him who died,  
Of Him who died upon the cross;  
The sinner’s hope let men deride,  
For this we count the world but loss.

2  
Inscribed upon the cross we see,  
In shining letters, “God is love”;  
He bears our sins upon the tree;  
He brings us mercy from above.

5  
The balm of life, the cure of woe,  
The measure and the pledge of love,  
The sinner’s refuge here below,  
The angels’ theme in heaven above.

*[The congregation stands]*

#### THE OFFERTORY

**ALL: What can I offer to the Lord: for all His goodness to me?**  
**I will lift up the cup of salvation: and call on the name of the Lord.**  
**I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving: and call on the name of the Lord.**  
**I will keep my promises to the Lord: in the presence of all His people;**  
**In the courts of the house of the Lord: in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

#### THE PRAYER

O God the Father Almighty, we praise You for Your eternal wisdom and mercy, in which You ordained that Your Son should be the sacrifice for our sin. We praise You that, by His being lifted up on the cross, He draws all people to Himself, taking away their iniquity, and granting them peace.

In this holy hour we thank and praise You for His sacrificial love, for His perfect obedience, for His patience in suffering, for His willingness to endure even the cross, and for His submission to death.

Help us to see, in the darkness that accompanied His dying, in the shaking of the earth, and in the splitting of the rocks, how great an evil was done by sinful people, how great a life was ended, and how great a death was inflicted. But through the tearing open of the veil of the Temple, and the opening of the graves of the saints, show us our sure entrance into the heavenly Holy of holies.

We thank You, O Father, for all that Jesus Your Son, our Lord, has done, for all that He has suffered, for all that He has given us, and for all that He has promised us.. We bow in adoration, and offer our prayers from the depths of grateful hearts. We join with the angels and with all Your redeemed people of every race, tribe, nation, and language in raising our song of thanksgiving: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honour, glory, and praise for ever."

As we remember our Saviour's passion, grant that we may treasure the things that belong to our salvation. As we remember His suffering, make us ready to pass through many troubles to enter the kingdom of God. As we remember His wounds, equip us to cope with every painful struggle. As we remember His crucifixion, teach us to crucify our worthless passions and desires. As we remember His death, help us to be ready to place our spirit in Your hands. As we remember His burial, help us to remember that He has transformed the graves of all His believers.

We rejoice, O Father, that we have received Your mercy and seen Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Give us Your continuing grace through Him who died and rose again for us, and who reigns as the Lamb on the throne for ever and ever. Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BLESSING

R: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

**C: Amen.**

#### HYMN 58 part 2

7  
Lord, little can I offer  
For all that Thou didst suffer;  
This one thing will I do:  
Till death my soul releases,  
Thy dying, Thy distresses,  
My heart will cherish deep and true.  
9  
My flesh now crucifying,  
Its evil lust denying,  
I unto sin will die.  
Lord, I will never leave Thee,  
But shun whate'er may grieve Thee,  
Strong in the strength Thou dost supply.

8  
Thy cross will stand before me,  
Its sacred power be o'er me,  
Wherever I may be:  
A mirror whose reflection  
Shows me all pure perfection-  
A seal of love and constancy.  
10  
Thy sighing and Thy groaning,  
The tears and blood atoning,  
Which Thou hast freely poured,  
Through life will comfort lend me,  
And after death attend me  
Into Thy endless rest, O Lord.

**Article:****A Tree gave its Life**

Does getting closer to nature bring us closer to God? Many poets have said so. But it is not always true.

If we enjoy the great outdoors without the Word of God, we are not getting closer to God. We are getting further away from Him. If we enjoy the great outdoors with the Word of God - in our hands and in our hearts - we see things differently. Consider a tree.

A tree is pretty to look at and nice to sit under. A tree gives us fruit to eat and air to breathe. In death, a tree yields warmth and light as firewood and sturdy material for houses and furniture. This is printed on paper made in part from the corpse of a tree.

But a tree is so much more when viewed from the high perspective of God's Word.

In its beauty and its fruit, a tree reminds us of the power and wisdom of God in creating this world and of the love and goodness of God in preserving it.

But it was by a tree in a garden that man first disobeyed God. It was by eating the fruit of a tree that man brought sin, death, and misery into the world. A tree reminds us of our sin and our sins and our sorrows.

The greatest glory of wood is that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Mary, was nailed to the tree of the cross for our salvation. He died on a dead piece of wood for us to live. He died there for our sins in our place.

A tree gave its life so that He could give His life - to give us eternal life. The fruit of that dead wood surpasses the fruits of all other trees that have been or will be. That fruit is the grace of God, the forgiveness of sins, the joy of heaven for all believers in Christ. A dead tree and an instrument of death, the cross still yields life - eternal life.

Will heaven be treeless? It was not that way in the vision that God gave John (Revelation 22:2). May those who wander in the woods of this world - dark forests indeed - be gathered in heaven beneath the tree of life - through faith in Him who died on the tree of the cross.

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES**

8.30am OAK HC

9.00am TMBA LR

9.30am AUB LR

9.30am GRN HC

9.00am LOWOOD LR

## Children's Message:

We all know what happened on this day years ago, right? We call this Good Friday because on this day Jesus was whipped, nailed to a cross, and died to save us from our sins.

There's a Bible verse the prophet Isaiah wrote hundreds of years before Jesus died on the cross that says this so well. It goes like this: *"He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed"* (Isaiah 53:5). You know what it means to be pierced, right? And to be bruised? Jesus was pierced with nails on the cross. And dying on the cross He was bruised. The wounds happened when Jesus was whipped, because the whipping made cuts that bled on Jesus' back. Jesus *"was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed."* Do you know what rebellious acts and wrongdoings are? "Rebellious acts" and "wrongdoings" are both words for sins, every time we do something God doesn't want us to do. Jesus *"was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed."*



Let's think about what that means - that Jesus was pierced, bruised, and chastised for our sins but His being pierced, bruised, and chastised on the cross heals and forgives us of those sins.

Sometimes we're not kind to other people or say unkind things. But *"He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed."*

Sometimes we lie or take things that belong to others. But *"He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed."*

Sometimes we don't pay attention to our parents or pastors or teachers. But *"He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed."*

Every time we sin, we deserve God's punishment. But *"He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed."*

So we are healed and... Forgiven! *Thank You Jesus for taking my punishment on Yourself. Amen.*

### Easter Sunday, 9 April

READINGS: Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4;

Matthew 28:1-10

HYMNS: 95 89 92 (323 99) 88