



**CONGREGATIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
2024**

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today!

“Surely Jesus has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.” Christ’s journey on earth culminates with His crucifixion, death, and burial. His mother, His disciples, and the soldiers bear witness to His holy death, which magnifies our hope for eternal life. Thorns pierce His scalp. Nails inflict gaping wounds in His hands and feet. Bloody agony is heaped upon Jesus so that the Church may believe and confess the love, forgiveness, and grace of Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY ORDER OF SERVICE

[Spoken Order]

HYMNS: 63 67 348 753 292 81

[As the Minister approaches the altar the Congregation stands]

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

[The congregation sits]

HYMN 63

1

O darkest woe!
Ye tears, forth flow!
Hath earth so sad a wonder?
God the Father's only Son
Lieth buried yonder.

2

O sorrow dread;
God's Son is dead!
But by His expiation
Of our guilt upon the cross
Gained for us salvation.

3

O sinful man
It was the ban
Of death on thee that brought Him
Down to suffer for thy sins,
And such woe hath wrought Him.

4

Behold thy Lord,
The Lamb of God,
Blood-sprinkled lies before thee,
He has given His life that He
May to life restore thee.

5

O happy he
Whose heart doth see
And rightly comprehendeth
Why the Lord of glory thus
To the grave descendeth.

6

O Jesus blest,
My help and rest,
I humbly pray, Lord, hear me:
Make me love Thee to the last,
And in death be near me.

[The congregation stands]

THE CONFESSION

M: 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 pastor and congregation may kneel]

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord. C: **He made heaven and earth.**

M: I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord. C: **Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.**

ALL: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

[The pastor stands and addresses the congregation]

M: I ask each of you in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: I do.

M: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name?

C: I do.

M: Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God's presence, and to strive daily to lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy?

C: I do.

M: Christ gave to His church the authority to forgive the sins of those who repent, and to declare to those who do not repent that their sins are not forgiven. Therefore, upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and on behalf 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. Peace be with you.

C: Amen.

[The congregation stands]

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

M: Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

M: 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

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: 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

M: 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. ¹⁴ 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, — ¹⁵ 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.”

^{53:1} Who has believed our Message? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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:

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

M: The Second Reading is written in chapter 4 of Hebrews, verses 14-16, then 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! ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help us when we need it! ...

^{5:7} 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. ⁸ Although Jesus is the Son, He learned obedience from the things that He suffered. ⁹ When He was perfected, He also became the Source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

After the reading:

M: 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

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

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

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

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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”!’”

²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.

²⁵ Jesus' mother, His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross of Jesus.

²⁶ Therefore, when Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, there is your son." ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "There is your mother."

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

²⁸ After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ 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:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The Congregation sings:

LAMB OF GOD MOST HOLY

Lamb of God most holy,

Who on the cross didst languish,

Patient, meek, and lowly,

Though mocked amid Thine anguish:

All sin hast Thou borne for us,

Else would despair reign o'er us.

Have mercy on us, O Jesus.

THE NICENE CREED

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

[The congregation sits]

HYMN 67

1

And can it be, that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His
pain –
For me, who Him to death
pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die
for me?

2

'Tis mystery all! The-Immortal
dies:
Who can explore His strange
design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love
divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

3

He left His Father's throne above –
So free, so infinite His grace-
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me!

4

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living head,
And clothed in righteousness
divine,
Bold I approach the eternal
throne,
And claim the crown, through
Christ my own.

SERMON

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

Sermon: Luke 23:46 The Seventh Word from the Cross

HYMN 348

1

Jesus, Master, at Thy Word
I will work whate'er betide me.
And I know Thou wilt, O Lord,
By Thy Word and Spirit guide me.
At Thy Word my faith shall see
All things work for good to me.

2

Though my toil may seem unblest,
And my lot appointed dreary,
When at eve I go to rest,
From my labour faith and weary,
At Thy Word I will each morn
To my work with joy return.

3

Though I be of joys bereft,
And by sorrows overtaken,
Yet I know a solace left:
I am not by Thee forsaken;
Jesus, Thou canst aid afford,
Fraught with comfort is Thy Word.

4

At Thy Word in faith I press
Onward through this vale of
sadness;
By Thy grace I shall possess
Victor-palms in heavenly gladness:
To my latest hour, O Lord,
I will trust Thee at Thy Word.

[The congregation stands]

THE OFFERTORY

ALL: Create in me a clean heart O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing Spirit.

THE PRAYER

HYMN 753

1

Downtrodden Christ, to You we
pray
Who at the third hour of the day
Were led away and nailed up high
In naked shame beneath the sky:
Show through the pain that scars
Your face
The love of God, and man's
disgrace.

2

Uplifted Christ, to You we pray
Who at the sixth hour of the day
Took all our guilt upon that tree
In darkness, blood, and agony:
Look on our pride and unbelief,
Grant us repentance and relief.

3

Outstretching Christ, to You we pray
Who at the ninth hour of the day
Alone dismissed Your final breath
And opened heaven by Your death:
Come to our dying world and reign,
That we with You may live again.

[After the hymn the congregation stands]

THE PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: For that is fitting and right.

M: It is truly fitting and right, and for our lasting good, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; For He has taken upon Himself our sin, that we, being dead to sin, should live to righteousness. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we adore and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE 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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said, Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

In the same way He took the cup, after the supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, Drink of it all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

THE PEACE

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen.**

THE LAMB OF GOD

ALL: O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us Your peace. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN 292 is sung during The Distribution

HYMN 292

1
The death of Christ, our blessed
Lord,
We celebrate with one accord:
Our comfort sure in all distress,
Our heart's sweet joy and
happiness.

2
His Word proclaims, and we
believe,
That in this supper we receive
His very blood for sinners shed,
His very body with the, bread.

3
A precious food is this indeed,
It never fails us in our need:
Manna from heaven, to feed our
soul
Until we safely reach our goal.

4
The guest that comes with true
intent
To turn to God and to repent,
To live for Christ, to die to sin,
Will thus a holy life begin.

5
They who His Word do not
believe,
This food unworthily receive,
Salvation here will never find-
May we this warning keep in mind.

6
Help us in truth, Lord, to believe
That we Thy mercy here receive,
And in Thy grace find peace and
rest;
He who believes is truly blest.

[After Holy Communion, the congregation stands for the SONG OF SIMEON]

**ALL: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace:
according to Your word.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation:
which You have prepared in the presence of all people;
A light to reveal You to the nations:
and the glory of Your people Israel.
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 GREETING

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

THE THANKSGIVING

M: O give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

C: For His love endures for ever.

M: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, you did not spare Your own Son, but gave Him up for us all: As we have received His body and blood in the Sacrament, let us continually live in Him and He is us, so that, as Your children, we may walk in Your ways and serve You all the days of our life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **C: Amen.**

M: Let us bless the Lord. **C: God be praised for evermore.**

THE BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

HYMN 81

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 Scripture 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-atoning sacrifice,
I cling by faith to Thee.

6

In every time of need,
Before the judgement-throne,
Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll
plead,
Thy merits, not my own.

7

Yet work, O Lord, in me
As Thou for me hast wrought;
And let my love the answer be
To grace Thy love has brought.

By His Wounds We Have Been Healed

The Holy Spirit spoke by the prophet Isaiah about our Lord's death and burial, *"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"* (Is. 53:9). By this, the circumstances of our Lord's death were foretold, how He would be killed beside criminals and be buried in Joseph of Arimathea's new tomb. Isaiah said that these things would happen, even though Jesus had neither done

any violence or ever spoken any lie. In other words, there was no sin in Him, no guilt worthy of death. This is a fact that even Pontius Pilate, Roman governor of Judea, recognised.

On Holy Thursday, Jesus was betrayed into the hands of sinful men. The one who betrayed Him was one of His own disciples; He betrayed Him with a kiss. The soldiers bound Jesus and dragged Him to the household of the high priest. They placed Jesus on trial, which was a sham. It was filled with false testimony, and those who made the lies about Jesus weren't even in agreement among themselves. It was determined that Jesus must be put to death for His crimes. As it was unlawful for them to carry out that sentence themselves, early on Friday morning, they led Jesus to Pilate.

Pilate examined Jesus and the complaints against Him. This was the conclusion he came to, *"I do not find any ground for complaint in Him"* (John 18:38). Though he was not a Christian, Pilate, by his words, acknowledged what the Holy Spirit had said through Isaiah to be true. There was no guilt in Jesus. St. Peter wrote the same, *"[Jesus] committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth"* (1 Pt. 2:22) St. John spoke likewise, saying, *"In [Jesus] there is no sin"* (1 Jn. 3:5).

The crowd was displeased at Pilate's findings, so he wavered and had Jesus flogged. Pilate's soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns; then they put it on Jesus' head along with a purple robe – the colour of kings. They spit on Him and hit Him.

Pilate brought Jesus out in the thorny crown and robe and testified, *"Look! I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no cause for complaint in Him"* (John 19:4). This enraged the crowd. They cried out, *"Crucify, Crucify!"* One last time, Pilate responded, *"Take Him yourselves and crucify Him! For I do not find any basis for a charge against Him"* (John 19:6). Three times Pilate confessed that Jesus was without guilt. He did not deserve to die. He had no sin. Yet, *"He assigned His grave with wicked people but was with a rich man in His death"* (Is. 53:9).

After Pilate confessed that Jesus was without guilt, he handed Him over to be crucified. They made Him carry His own cross to Golgotha. There, they stripped Him naked and nailed His hands and feet to the cross. Although He had committed no crime, our Lord died a criminal's death with criminals on either

side of Him. This was an excruciating, humiliating death. It was a death He did not deserve. It was a death we deserve.

Our good and gracious Father created all things that exist. He formed our first father from the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life. Our first mother, Eve, was formed by God from Adam's side. They were created perfect. They had the ability to fear, love and trust in God above all things, but they didn't. They doubted and disobeyed God's Word, and subjected all creation to the corruption of sin. Beginning with Cain and Abel, all human beings are born bearing the image of Adam, the corruption of original sin. Original sin is that corruption of the flesh that resides within each of us, tempting us, driving us, enticing us to doubt and disobey God's Word – to hate it and Him, just like our first parents. And we have. All of us.

The Lord has revealed Himself to us, He has told us what is good and right and true, and we have spit on it. What else is sinning other than rejecting what God has said? Each time we have sinned, we have said that we knew better and our wants were better than God's. We have sinned in the past and enjoyed it. We still sin and we do enjoy it. Hear now what God says about those who sin. *"The soul who sins will die"* (Ezek. 18:20). Our Lord speaks not just of temporal death for those who sin, but of an everlasting condemnation and an eternity of torment in hell. Our God's righteous decree is that everyone who sins deserves to die. We deserve to die.

Jesus did not sin, there was no guilt in Him; He did not deserve to die. But He did – for us. Jesus took upon and in Himself our sin. All of it. Every evil thought, every malicious deed, every careless word. Jesus took it all. St. Paul says that God *"made Him to be sin"* for our sake (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus took upon Himself our every sin, the wrath of God stored up in heaven to be poured out on us on the Last Day, instead, was poured out on Him on the cross. By His wounds, we have been healed.

Children's Message:

You all know what happened on Good Friday, don't you? This is the day every day has been building up to, the day Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Even though it's very sad, it's a very Good Friday!

We know how awful it was to die on a cross. It was terrible! They stretched out Jesus' hands and put nails through them to hold Him on the wooden cross. A nail through His feet, too.



The Bible tells us that Jesus was crucified with two other men. One was on His left, and the other was on His right. Now, if I were suffering by hanging on a cross, I'd probably be thinking just about myself - how bad I was hurting and trying to figure out if there was anything I could possibly do to make myself feel better. (There wouldn't be!) I'd probably also be really mad about the people who put me there. But what was Jesus doing and thinking about while He was on the cross? He was thinking about those two men crucified with Him, and everybody else - like He was reaching out His arms to them.

He even had a wonderful talk with them. One of the men made fun of Jesus. That was very sinful - and pretty foolish, since he was in terrible pain and dying too. The other man was also very sinful, but you know what? He suddenly realised that Jesus was dying right there because He loved him so much, that Jesus was dying to save him from all those sins of his. And he asked Jesus to take him with him when Jesus went to heaven after He died. You know what Jesus said? *"Today you will be with Me in paradise"* (Luke 23:43). As soon as they both died, they'd both be together in heaven.

Jesus' arms are always reaching out to people in all directions from the cross. Jesus wants everyone to know He died for them, to be with Him in heaven.

Dear Jesus, with Your outstretched arms on the cross, You were pointing to me. Thank You for thinking of me when you died. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY

6.00am TMBA PR Easter Sunrise Service (All welcome to attend)

8.30am OAK LR

9.00am GRN LR

9.30am AUB LR

9.00am MARBURG HC