

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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March 29, 2024 † Good Friday

BE GRACIOUS TO ME!

Nothing could be more natural than seeking revenge against one who has wronged you. Even the youngest child's untrained sense of fairness demands payback. God's children, however, are not to submit to human thinking but to the Word of God. What do the Scriptures say about our desire for revenge? When King David's enemies rose against him, the Holy Spirit inspired him to pray in Psalm 41:10: "But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!" David prays for vengeance, and God ordains vengeance. Yet the Scriptures also tell us not to "resist the one who is evil" (Matthew 5:39). What are we to make of this paradox? As with all matters of the faith, we must look to our Lord's crucifixion for the answer. For only by the cross is God gracious to you; only at the cross does He demand payment for every injustice.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

All enter the church in silence.

During the service, we will stand for each prayer and for the latter portion of the Gospel reading. As we will be alternating sitting and standing, if this is uncomfortable for you, please remain seated during those times as needed.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

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 forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

A The Old Testament Reading for Good Friday is from Isaiah, the fifty-second and fifty-third chapters.

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 every one 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Silence

P Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 41

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

P the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

P The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

C As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"

P My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

C And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

C They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

C But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

C But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A The Epistle is from Hebrews, the fourth and fifth chapters.

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Silence

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

+ THE SEVEN LAST WORDS +

HYMN "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" (*LSB* 439:1, 12–15)

FIRST WORD

Luke 23:34a

³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:1–3)

SECOND WORD *Luke* 23:43

⁴³[Jesus] said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:4–6)

THIRD WORD *John* 19:25–27

²⁵Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:7–9)

FOURTH WORD *Matthew* 27:46

⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:10–12)

FIFTH WORD *John* 19:28

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:13–15)

SIXTH WORD *John* 19:30

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:16–18)

SEVENTH WORD *Luke* 23:46

⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!” And having said this He breathed His last.

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:19–21)

HYMN

“The Royal Banners Forward Go” (*LSB* 455)

BIDDING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God:
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole Body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers we offer before You for all Your servants in Your Holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:
- P** Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

A Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

P O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially [*name*], our president; the Congress of the United States; [*name*], our governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:

P Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

P Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your Holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's Holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:

P Almighty and everlasting God, King of glory and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace

and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are needful for them and profitable for their salvation:

P O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

P O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Finally, let us pray for all things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

C Our Father who art in heaven, . . .

P Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C O come, let us worship Him.

P Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C O come, let us worship Him.

- P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.
- C** **O come, let us worship Him.**

+ REPROACHES +

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.
- A** Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

HYMN

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” *LSB* 434:1

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed You with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.
- A** Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

HYMN

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” *LSB* 434:2

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.
- A** Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

HYMN

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” *LSB 434:3*

ADORATION OF CHRIST

We adore You, | O Lord,*
and we praise and glorify Your holy resur- | rection.
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross*
joy has come into | all the world.
God be merciful to us and | bless us,*
and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy up-
| on us.
We adore You, | O Lord,*
and we praise and glorify Your holy resur- | rection.
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross*
joy has come into | all the world.

HYMN

“Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle” *LSB 454:1–4*

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.
We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the Passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (*LSB 425*)

All leave in silence.

Acknowledgments

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