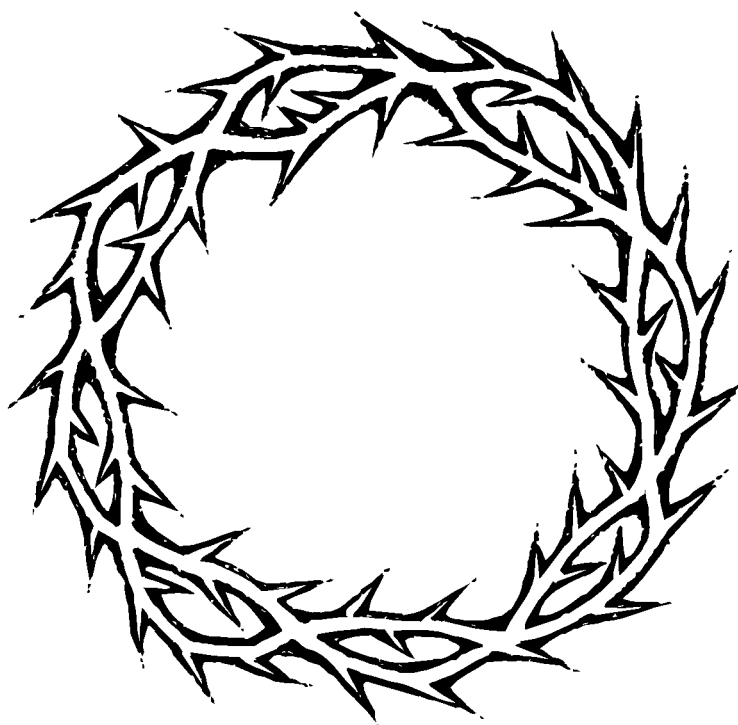


# *Good Friday*

## *April 7, 2023*



1812 North Highland Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33755  
Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

727-446-5026  
[office@graceclw.com](mailto:office@graceclw.com)  
Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the Passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. Tonight's liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Dunedin.

Some Practical Things:

**Children:** All children, even those who are noisy, upset, or otherwise discombobulated, are always welcome here. Some may enjoy one of the children's activity bags that an usher can provide.

**Restrooms** are located to the left out of the doors you entered in to the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.

## THE ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

*We gather for worship in the sanctuary in silence.*

*We Stand*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12**

page 596

*The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin. The early church saw in the servant's pouring himself out to death and being numbered with the transgressors important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.*

*The reading is concluded:*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 22**

*The psalm for the day is read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;  
by night, but I find no rest.**

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are the Holy One,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>**Our ancestors put their trust in you,  
they trusted, and you rescued them.**

<sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup>**But as for me, I am a worm and not human,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

<sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

<sup>8</sup>**“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

<sup>10</sup>**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble is near,  
and there is no one to help.

<sup>12</sup>**Many young bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

<sup>13</sup>They open wide their jaws at me,  
like a slashing and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

<sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof | of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet.**

<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones  
while they stare at me and gloat.

<sup>18</sup>**They divide my garments among them;  
for my clothing, they cast lots.**

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not far away;  
O my help, hasten to my aid.

<sup>20</sup>**Deliver me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth!  
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

<sup>22</sup>**I will declare your name to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the  
LORD's face hidden from them;  
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 10:16-25**

Page 933

*In the death of Jesus, forgiveness of sins is worked and access to God is established. Hence, when we gather together for worship and when we love others we experience anew the benefits of Jesus' death.*

The reading is concluded:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**John 18:1--19:42**

Page 875

*On Good Friday, the story of Jesus' passion—from his arrest to his burial—is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.*

The Holy Gospel according to John in the 18th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*As the Passion according to John is read, a large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The procession halts halfway and at the mid-point of the Passion reading, the following dialogue is again said:*

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*The procession continues as the rest of the Passion is read. When the procession reaches the chancel, the cross is placed on the steps leading up to the first level of the chancel.*

*After the reading...*

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We Sit*

**SERMON**

**HYMN**

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

**ELW 349**

**BIDDING PRAYER**

*The assembly remains seated. The assisting minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence.*

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,

you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.

By your Holy Spirit guide the church

and gather it throughout the world.

Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name,

and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for Elizabeth and Pedro our bishops, for Jefferson our pastor, for our deacons Connie, Nova, Susi, Frank, Vicki, and Iris, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,

your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.

Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors,

other ministers, and lay leaders.

Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church,

and help each of us in our various vocations

to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church.  
Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism.  
Give them new birth as your children,  
and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity.  
Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son.  
Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith,  
and keep us united in the fellowship of love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses.  
Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own  
may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace  
all those who call out to you under different names.  
Bring an end to inter-religious strife,  
and make us more faithful witnesses  
of the love made known to us in your Son.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity  
so that all may long to know you and find peace in you.  
Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace  
in the world and in the lives of Christians,

and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you are the creator of a magnificent universe.  
Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care  
and bring all things to fulfillment in you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you are the champion of the poor and oppressed.  
In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority,  
so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom,  
and a share in the goodness of your creation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you give strength to the weary  
and new courage to those who have lost heart.  
Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers,  
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,  
and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease.  
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble,  
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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 SOLEMN REPROACHES**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?

Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom,  
and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert,  
feeding you with manna on the way;  
I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire,  
but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;  
I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit;  
I made you branches of the vine and never left your side,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I poured out saving water from the rock,  
but you gave me vinegar to drink;  
I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;  
I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed;  
I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land,  
but you opened my side with a spear;  
I washed your feet as a sign of my love,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I lifted you up to the heights,  
but you lifted me high on a cross;  
I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I grafted you into my people Israel,

but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters,  
but I was hungry and you gave me no food,  
thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
a stranger and you did not welcome me,  
naked and you did not clothe me,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

*After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*We Stand*

*All depart in silence. Worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.*

