



# ***“PLACES OF THE PASSION: GOLGOTHA”***

***Friday, April 2, 2021 4:00PM  
Worship Service***

## **AS WE GATHER**

In this service for Good Friday, stand at the foot of the cross on Golgotha, the Place of the Skull, where the crucified Christ breathes his last for our sake. His suffering is in plain view, as well as his great love. His death redeems us all.

*Stand*

## **INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us ever walk with Jesus.

**C** **To see the depths of his love.**

**P** To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

**C** **To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

**P** To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

**C** **We walk with Jesus to Golgotha.**

**P** That's Aramaic for The Place of the Skull.

**C** **That's where Jesus gave us his all.**

**P** Faithful Lord, with me abide.

**C** **I shall follow where you guide!**

*Sit*

## **OPENING HYMN**

**“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”**

**LSB 451 sts. 1-3**

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,  
David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it:  
'Tis the true and faithful Word.
  
- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,  
Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends through fear His cause disowning,  
Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him,  
None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him  
Was the stroke that justice gave.

3 Ye who think of sin but lightly  
Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly,  
Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed,  
See who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,  
Son of Man and Son of God.

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*Stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to behold the agony of your rejection, the pain of your condemnation, and the horror of your crucifixion.

**C** **Empower us to walk where you walked and to the people you encountered on that Friday so long ago.**

**P** Stay with us, Lord, as we witness your suffering and listen to your last words of love.

**C** **As we approach Calvary, let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against your holy commandments.**

**P** Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from you in our thinking, speaking and doing.

**C** **We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.**

**P** We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.

**C** **O God, we have tried to hide from you and from one another.**

**P** We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us and the failed relationships that haunt us.

**C** **We cannot plead the strength of our temptations or the frailty of our nature or place the blame on other people.**

**P** We can only say—

**C** **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

### VERSE

“To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All”

LSB 613 sts. 1 & 3

1 To Thee, omniscient Lord of all,  
In grief and shame I humbly call;  
I see my sins against Thee, Lord,  
The sins of thought and deed and word.  
They press me sore; I cry to Thee:  
O God, be merciful to me!

3 O Jesus, let Thy precious blood  
Be to my soul a cleansing flood.  
Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away,  
But grant that justified I may  
Go to my house at peace with Thee:  
O God, be merciful to me!

Text: Public domain

**P** Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

**C I shall follow where you guide!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Almighty God, graciously behold 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 Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 50:4–10**

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 50.

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face  
from disgrace and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?  
Let him come near to me.

<sup>9</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.

<sup>10</sup>Who among you fears the LORD  
and obeys the voice of his servant?  
Let him who walks in darkness  
and has no light  
trust in the name of the LORD  
and rely on his God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING**

**Galatians 3:10–14**

**P** The Epistle is from Galatians, chapter 3.

<sup>10</sup>For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” <sup>11</sup>Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” <sup>12</sup>But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” <sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— <sup>14</sup>so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 27:45–56

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.

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

<sup>45</sup>Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup>And 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?” <sup>47</sup>And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” <sup>48</sup>And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” <sup>50</sup>And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

<sup>51</sup>And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, <sup>53</sup>and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

<sup>55</sup>There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, <sup>56</sup>among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## THE SECOND ARTICLE

**C** 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, died and was 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.

**P** What does this mean?

**C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

*Sit*

## SERMON HYMN

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

LSB 611 sts. 1 & 2

1 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high,

Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.

- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,  
Higher than the heav'ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea,  
Lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me—wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.

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## SERMON

*Stand*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above. Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray: Dear Lord Jesus, that there had to be a day when you—the eternal Son of God—would be made sin for us, is not good. But at the same time, that you freely and gladly gave yourself for us on the cross, is ultimate goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, from the cross you uttered these two impassioned cries. "Father, forgive them" and "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The first, our forgiveness, required the second, your God-forsakenness. Together, these cries humble our hearts and ignite our faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, then you cried, "It is finished." You left nothing undone. We are redeemed, reconciled, renewed, and resurrection is most certainly coming. You became the Just for the unjust, the Beautiful One for the broken ones, the Way for the lost ones, the Savior for the sinners, the Lamb of God for the rebels from God. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Dear Lord Jesus, thousands of years into our life in the new heaven and new earth, we will still be stunned with awe, worship, and gratitude for the greatness of your sacrifice and love for us. R rated, to be sure, because you exhausted God's judgment against our numberless sins.

**C** **Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C** **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.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** Jesus invites us to walk with him to Golgotha.

**C** **A place of great suffering.**

**P** And a place of great love.

**C** **We will walk with Jesus all the way.**

## READING

Matthew 27:57–66

**P** A reading from Matthew, chapter 27.

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup>And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup>Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup>and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ <sup>64</sup>Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” <sup>65</sup>Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” <sup>66</sup>So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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