

Good Friday Devotion

The Spirit Anointed Christ for Mercy – Lenten Worship Series

Lent was the time when candidates for Holy Baptism were intently preparing to be baptized at the Vigil of Easter. We, too, in this season of Lent prepare ourselves to remember our Baptism at Easter as we ritually “pass over” with Jesus from death to new life. During this Lenten season we will remember Jesus’ Baptism, His anointing with the Holy Spirit, and His words in Luke 4: that He was anointed to show and to be mercy. As His people — hearing Him proclaim God’s Word and being God’s Word as Prophet; seeing Him sacrifice Himself on a cross and knowing that He intercedes for us as Priest; and knowing that we live under Him as King in righteousness and purity — we will be reminded of our work of mercy. Tonight, Good Friday, we remember the “Mandatum,” the awful burden that He carried. He carried the curse and weight of our sin, but tonight we learn He also carried the weight of His compassion and love. *(Each service will present an opportunity to give of our treasures to the church’s corporate mercy work through LCMS World Relief and Human Care.)*

The Spirit Anointed Christ . . . to Proclaim the Jubilee (Good Friday)

People: Amen.

This service is adapted from the “Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish” service for Good Friday, 2009.

+ PREPARATION FOR THE DEATH OF JESUS +

HYMN “The Infant Priest Was Holy Born” [LSB 624]

SERMON

HYMN “Lamb of God” [LSB 550]

READING Heb. 4:14–16; 5:7–9 (*Jesus is our great High Priest.*)

BIDDING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: 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:

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Assisting Minister: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the church, and for all the people of God:

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which 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.

People: Amen.

Assisting Minister: 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

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

Pastor: 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, Barack Obama our President; the Congress of the United States; _____, our governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws] through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

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

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

People: Amen.

Assisting Minister: 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:

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Assisting Minister: 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:

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Assisting Minister: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needed by them and profitable for their salvation:

Pastor: 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, one mind, and one heart with us and Your whole Christian church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Assisting Minister: 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:

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

(The first candle is extinguished.)

READING Is. 52:13–53:3 *(God's suffering Servant is described.)*

(Centuries earlier Isaiah was inspired to write about our Lord's Passion in poetic Hebrew verse.)

Pastor: Behold, My servant shall act wisely;

People: He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

Pastor: As many were astonished at you—

People: His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,

and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—

Pastor: so shall He sprinkle many nations;

People: kings shall shut their mouths because of Him;

Pastor: for that which has not been told them they see,

People: and that which they have not heard they understand.

Pastor: Who has believed what He has heard from us?

People: And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Pastor: For He grew up before Him like a young plant,

People: and like a root out of dry ground;

Pastor: He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him,

People: and no beauty that we should desire Him.

Pastor: He was despised and rejected by men;

People: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;

Pastor: and as one from whom men hide their faces

People: He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

HYMN “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” [LSB 440, Stanzas 1–2]

(The second candle is extinguished.)

HYMN “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” [LSB 427; LW 101; TLH 354]

REPROACHES *(Based on Micah 6 and Isaiah 5)*

Pastor: Thus says the LORD: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. Though I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. Though I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

People: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Thus says the LORD: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. Though I have conquered all your foes, you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. Though I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: 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.

(The third candle is extinguished.)

+ THE DEATH OF JESUS +

PASSION John 19:17–42

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

PSALM Ps. 22:1, 7–8, 14–18 *(A prophetic description of Jesus' death.)*

Pastor: My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

People: Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

Pastor: All who see me mock me;

People: they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

Pastor: “He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver him;

People: let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!”

Pastor: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

People: My heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

Pastor: My strength is dried up like a potsherd,

People: and my tongue sticks to my jaws; You lay me in the dust of death.

Pastor: For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

People: they have pierced my hands and feet—

Pastor: I can count all my bones—

People: they stare and gloat over me;

Pastor: they divide my garments among them,

People: and for my clothing they cast lots.

HYMN “Were You There” [LSB 456, Stanzas 1–3]

PASSION John 19:25–42 *(The death and burial of Jesus.)*

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

READING Is. 53:4–12 (*The Servant suffered for us.*)

Pastor: Surely He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; He has born our pains and carried our afflictions. Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But 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.

All 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.

He 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.

(*The sixth candle is extinguished.*)

By 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?

And 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.

Yet 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.

Out 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.

Therefore 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.

(*The Christ Candle is removed.*)

COLLECT

Pastor: 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; give us an extra measure of Your Holy Spirit that we may remember our merciful Christ, anointed for mercy, who as our Prophet preached the good news of mercy and was mercy. Who as our anointed Priest sacrificed Himself for us and because of His innocent suffering and death He can stand before Your throne and intercede for us. Who as our merciful King rules all things by His mercy and love and would have us live lives of mercy. We ask these things through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

STREPITUS (*The closing of God's book.*)

(The Christ Candle is returned in recognition that God is eternally alive.)

After the pastor leaves, a few lights may be turned on. Please observe silence while departing.