

"Bonded in Christ's love, we teach, preach, and equip God's people for discipleship here and throughout the world."



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

7 p.m.

April 10, 2020

Bells

Gathering

P- Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday.

C- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

P- In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death.

C- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

P- Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world, as Christ's death offers life for all.

C- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

P- We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree [cross] around we assemble is indeed the tree of life.

C- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Prayer of the Day

P- Merciful God,

C- your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself.

Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

ELW #353, Were You There (*first verse*)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

DARKNESS OVER THE LAND

Matthew 27:45-56 – The Death of Jesus

From noon on, **darkness** came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, **"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"** that is, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** When some of the bystanders

heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.

But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

ELW #353, Were You There *(fourth verse)*

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

LINGERING LIGHT

Were You There *(sixth verse not printed in the ELW)*

Were you there when he rose up from the grave?

Were you there when he rose up from the grave?

Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when he rose up from the grave?

GOOD FRIDAY BIDDING PRAYER

Call to prayer

On this most sacred day when our Lord, who has been lifted up to draw all people to himself, has gone before us to the Father, we his body stand with him before the Father and intercede for his church and his world.

For the church

Let us pray for the holy church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father will grant peace to his church, preserve it in unity, and protect it throughout the world.

(silent prayer)

*Almighty Father, you have shown your glory to all nations in Christ your Son:
Guide the work of your church; help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name,
and bring your salvation to people everywhere.*

Lord, in your mercy,

C- hear our prayer.

For the presidents, pastors and people of the church

Let us pray for the bishop of our church, Elizabeth Eaton, and our bishop of our synod, Brian Maas, for all pastors and servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, you guide the church and keep it holy. Help all of us to work faithfully for you.

Lord, in your mercy,

C- hear our prayer.

For those searching for faith

Let us pray for those who are searching for faith in God or being prepared for baptism, that God will wash them in the waters of new birth, and give them his Holy Spirit.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, you continually add new members to your church. Increase the faith and understanding of those being prepared for baptism. Give them new birth by water and the Spirit, and strengthen them by your grace to life eternal.

Lord, in your mercy,

C- hear our prayer.

For the unity of the Christian church

Let us pray for all Christians, that God will gather us by his Spirit and keep us united in faith and love.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, you have made us your holy people by our common baptism. Make us one in our confession of faith, increase our love for each other, and help us to work together in your mission to the people of the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

C- hear our prayer.

For the Jewish people

Let us pray for the Jewish people, to whom God spoke through the prophets, that they will acknowledge Jesus as the Christ foretold by the prophets.

(silent prayer)

Almighty Father, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his descendants. Grant that your chosen people may share with us the fullness of your redemption.

Lord, in your mercy,

C- hear our prayer.

For those who do not yet believe in Christ

Let us pray for all who do not yet believe in Jesus Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit will show them the way of salvation.

(silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, remember those who do not remember you. Have mercy on those who have rejected your grace. Guide those who seek to make sense of their lives, so that they may find their salvation in Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

C- hear our prayer.

For those in public office

Let us pray for those who serve us in public office, that God may use them to curb what is evil and work for the wellbeing of our nation.

(silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, guide all the nations of the earth, so that they may promote international justice and peace. Bless our country and all who hold positions of responsibility, our prime minister, (insert name here), and premier, (insert name here). Direct the parliaments of our commonwealth and state, so that we may enjoy good government, and live together in freedom and harmony.

Lord, in your mercy,

C- hear our prayer.

For those in need

Let us pray for all the needy people of the earth, that God will provide for them according to their needs.

(silent prayer)

Heavenly Father, heal those who are physically sick and mentally disturbed. Support those who are aged and dying. Comfort those who are hungry and lonely. Relieve those who are oppressed, and free those who are unjustly imprisoned.

Conclusion

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

ALL - Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

All leave in silence in preparation for Easter morning.