

## **WELCOME**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

## **LENTEN READING – GOOD FRIDAY**

## **HYMN – LEAD ME TO CALVARY**

**SCRIPTURE:** *John 19:16-30*

## **MEDITATION**

### **Who Killed Jesus? - A Good Friday Meditation**

Today we are gathered at what for centuries has been called Good Friday. Good Friday is just one of a string of events that fill the greatest week in the Universe since Creation. These are: the Momentous Events of Passion Week. Now, where are we in this Passion Week? Here is a quick reminder of the momentous events of Passion Week:

#### ***Sunday***

Event: Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

References: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19

#### ***Monday***

Event: Jesus clears the temple

References: Matthew 21:12, 13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45, 46

#### ***Tuesday***

Events: Jesus' authority challenged in the temple

Jesus teaches in stories and confronts the Jewish leaders

Greeks ask to see Jesus

The Olivet Discourse

Judas agrees to betray Jesus

References: Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8

Matthew 21:28-23:36; Mark 12:1-40; Luke 20:9-47

John 12:20-26

Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21:5-38

Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10, 11; Luke 22:3-6

#### ***Wednesday***

Event: The Bible does not say what Jesus did on this day. He probably remained in Bethany with his disciples

#### ***Thursday***

Event: The Last Supper

Jesus speaks to the disciples in the upper room

Jesus struggles in Gethsemane

Jesus is betrayed and arrested

References: Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:2P-25; Luke 22:14-20

John 13-17

Matthew 26.-36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1

Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14-43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12

### ***Friday***

Event: Jesus is tried by Jewish and Roman authorities and disowned by Peter

Jesus is crucified

References: Matthew 26:57-27:2, 11-31; Mark 14:53-15:20; Luke 22:54-23:25;

John 18:13-19:16

Matthew 27:31-56; Mark 15:20-41; Luke 23-26-49; *John 19:17-30*

### ***Sunday***

Event: The Resurrection

References: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20,1-18

Today, Friday, we remember the death of our Lord and Saviour. Death is often a horrible experience. What makes our Lord's death even more horrible is that He was murdered by the brutal act of crucifixion.

When you listen to a story, you often are trying to figure out who really is in control of the situation. Who is really in charge? Sometimes, surprising plot twists arise when it suddenly becomes clear that the person you thought was controlling the action *is not* and someone else actually has the upper hand and is running the show.

So, who is in charge in the Passion story in John's gospel? People who know some history and are wise to the ways of the world will think they know the answer.

"Power grows from the barrel of a gun," as the saying goes.

The Roman Empire with its legions controlled the Mediterranean world, including Judea, and Rome was quick to react to any threat to its authority. The governor, Pontius Pilate, had tough soldiers available and was not afraid to use them. At the same time, the Jewish high priest saw Jesus as a threat to the religious establishment and was willing to work with Pilate to get rid of him. Together they

had the power to arrest, try and execute someone who talked about a coming kingdom of God rather than of Caesar and who criticized religious authorities. The fact that Jesus was quickly executed as a criminal shows that on one level that view is right. In the short term, Pilate and Caiaphas got what they wanted. But that is not the whole story.

***Religious people have another answer: God was in charge of the situation. God is always in charge.***

But we do continue to ask, "Who could have done such a thing? Who killed Jesus?" There are many we might blame.

#### **WERE YOU THERE? – 1 VERSE**

1. Perhaps we would blame the Pharisees and the religious leaders. Jesus had denounced their false worship and religion and had become a threat to them.

***Mat 12:14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.***

After Jesus was arrested:

***Mark 14:53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together.***

He was brought before the Sanhedrin.

***Mark 15:1 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.***

Surely it was these people who killed Him.

#### **WERE YOU THERE? - VERSE 2**

2. Or was it Pilate? He was afraid to stand up to the people and He finally handed Jesus over to be hung. It was only Pilate that had the authority to condemn His life.

#### **WERE YOU THERE? – VERSE 2**

3. Or was it the crowd? How quickly they turned from following Jesus to being stirred up by the Pharisees. It was they who cried out "crucify Him, crucify Him." It was they, who put the pressure on Pilate. Pilate could not survive his position if they would rise up against him.

#### **WERE YOU THERE? – VERSE 2**

- 4 Was it the soldiers? They not only placed Him on the cross but drove in the nails and mocked Him. They were the ones who took the physical action against Him.

#### **WERE YOU THERE? – VERSE 2**

5. Or was it you or me? After all, was it not for our sins that He died? If we had not sinned, His death would not have been necessary.

#### **WERE YOU THERE? – VERSE 2**

Who killed Jesus? The real answer is none of the above.

6. His Father killed Him! Perhaps this statement sounds too strong and even blasphemous? And yet God Himself says the same thing in His word:

***Rom 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all.***

It was God's will that His Son should suffer and die on the cross. That is why He sent Jesus to earth in the first place.

How can a Father kill His own Son? God asked Abraham to do this very thing with his son Isaac. But just as Abraham lifted the knife over the chest of his son, God spared his son and replaced the sacrifice with a lamb caught in the thicket. But God lifted the knife of death over the chest of His son, but did not spare Him, because Jesus was the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain.

Why? Why did God kill His own Son? He did this for you and me.

***2 Cor 5:21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***

***Isa 53:5-6 But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.***

God did not spare His own Son because it was by His death alone that God could spare us. Out of His great love for us, God let His Son bear the penalty of all of our sins. And that, my friends, is hard for us to understand. But although we cannot understand such love, we can respond to it. We can say "Thank you, God.". We can hate our sin as we see how it cost the life of our Lord and Saviour. We can make His death effective for us. We can place our trust in Him for if God did this for you and me, is there anything greater that He could do? No, and since He did

this, there is nothing *less* that He will do for you and me. This is the hope that we have in the darkness of Good Friday. That is the light which shines in the darkness. Come to the light and walk in the light. He is waiting for you.

Thank you, God, for your indescribable gift!

## **WERE YOU THERE? – VERSE 2**

### ***Let us pray.***

God of mercy, we remember how the disciples slept while Jesus was in agony. Give to us not only spirits willing to help others but the strength of mind and body as well. As Jesus prayed for his disciples and

for himself and asked that Your will be done instead of his own, help us to turn to You in holy obedience and to pray for ourselves and for all of Your people.

God of truth, we remember how Pilate allowed the passions of the crowd to rule him. We pray to you Lord that You will be with the leaders of our nation and our world, that they may rule according to that which is just and true and right and that they might govern by your light rather than by the darkness of human sin.

God of compassion, we have just been reminded how Jesus suffered on the cross. We pray to You today for all who suffer this day. May they have release from their captivity.

God of love, we remember how Jesus died on the cross with His mother looking on. We pray to You today for all who mourn and all who have suffered grievous loss.

Father, in the name of Jesus we ask you to hear all our prayers this day.

We especially ask you to hear those prayers we make to you now, both aloud and in the silence of our hearts.

### ***Silence***

We ask all that we ask, and we give thanks for all that we thank You for in the name of Christ Jesus who taught us to pray to you as one family, saying: "***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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.***

***Amen.***

## **COMMUNION FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

L: Dear friends, we are going to Jerusalem with Jesus.

**P: He is our pardon, our healing, and our peace!**

L: We will suffer the trial with him, resisting evil.

**P: With him, we will walk the path to life.**

L: But come first to the table where there is food for the journey.

**P: With hearts full of joy, we come, giving thanks to God, our maker, and offering our praise!**

## **HYMN – WOUNDED FOR ME**

We are right to praise you, faithful God!

You answer sin with grace.

You guide our wayward steps toward home.

You are healing for the broken, safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast, strength for the weak, and pardon for the sinner.

You reveal your kindness in every sorrow, your mercy even in death.

All your creatures see your works.

They sing your steadfast love.

We too declare your wonder and grace as with angels and saints we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## ***Remembering and Giving Thanks***

Now, O God, we remember Jesus in our silence.

*Silence*

He fasted and prayed; He was tempted and tried.

He relied on You for everything.

He was obedient to You and scorned by the powers of this world.

He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the humble.

He was betrayed and deserted. He died between thieves and was buried in a borrowed grave.

You gave Him new life. He lives even now, our healer and friend.

He loved us well, loved us to the end, and loves us still.

Even on the night of betrayal, He ate supper with his friends.

***While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."***

## ***Prayer For the Bread and Wine***

Holy Spirit, come! Make all things new.

Bless this bread which you have given, and human hands have made.

Let it become for us the bread of life.

Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

Let it become for us the cup of salvation.

Bless us also who eat and drink, that in this sharing we may know the living Christ who is with us now, and to the end of the age.

Nourish us by these gifts to be willing servants of your world until the new kingdom comes, and we will all eat with You in paradise.

*This is my body broken for you.*

*This is my blood shed for you.*

*These are the gifts of God for the people of God.*

*Let us give thanks!*

**Let us pray.**

Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.

Give us the gifts of this holy communion; oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***BENEDICTION***

Go in peace.

Remember how much God loves you.

Give thanks to the Lord.

And may the blood of the Lamb that was slain keep you safe both now and forevermore.

Amen.

***VIDEO – from email***