

Good Friday: the Adoration of the Cross

April 2, 2021 † Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: Good Friday – the Adoration of the Cross

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the Passion according to St. 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 our Lord’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 Great Vigil of Easter tomorrow evening.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship tonight. The link is embedded in this pdf, so you don’t have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the link in the email. If you made a rough cross out of branches, have it ready. Or take the time to make one now, perhaps from the branches you raised on the Sunday of the Passion.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. **[Start the video by clicking here.](#)** It will continue through the end of the liturgy.

Word

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, 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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; reader – Brad Nelson, sacristan

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond
human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall
see,
and that which they had not heard they shall
contemplate.

¹ Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been
revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at
him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire
him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with
infirmity;

and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no
account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our
diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by
God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us
whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is
silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with
pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his
days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make
many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; reader – David Engen, assisting minister

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

HYMN: ELW 345, “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

Sung at Mount Olive on Good Friday, April 14, 2017.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: John 18:1 – 19:42

Readers: Brad Nelson, David Engen, Pr. Crippen

HYMN: ELW 351, 352, “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Sung at Mount Olive on Good Friday, April 19, 2019.

BIDDING PRAYER

This ancient prayer is appointed for Good Friday as we pray for the entirety of the people of God and the whole world, all of whom Jesus drew into God’s life when he was lifted up on the cross.

Response to each petition: ☩ Amen.

The prayers conclude:

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

☩ 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

ADORATION OF THE CROSS

Your rough-made cross can be carried through the house, or simply held up, during this liturgy:

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

☩ Oh, come, let us worship.

THE SOLEMN REPROACHES

This ancient text puts the Triune God's pain and suffering over our rebelliousness into the voice of Christ, asking, what else could I have done for you that I did not do? Surrounding each reproach is the ancient refrain, the Trisagion: "Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us."

Sung at Mount Olive on Good Friday, April 19, 2019; Chandler Molbert, soloist.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us. *(Sung each time by soloist in Greek, then by all in English)*

O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I offended you? Answer me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, what more could I have done for you that I have not done? Answer me. I led you through the desert forty years and fed you with manna. I brought you through tribulation and gave you my body, the bread of heaven; I went before you in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, what more could I have done for you that I have not done? Answer me. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me; I planted you as my chosen and fairest vineyard and made you branches of my vine; but you pierced my side with a spear, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, what more could I have done for you that I have not done? Answer me. I gave you water of salvation from the rock, but when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink; I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed on you the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, what more could I have done for you that I have not done? Answer me. I gave you my peace, which the world cannot give, but you draw the sword to strike in my name; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, and offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, what more could I have done for you that I have not done? Answer me. I prayed that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide, casting lots for my

clothing; I grafted you into the tree of my chosen 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, what more could I have done for you that I have not done? Answer me. I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was 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.

ADORATION OF THE CROSS

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

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

HYMN: *ELW 355, "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"*

Sung at Mount Olive on Good Friday, April 19, 2019.

The liturgy ends in silence.

