

Good Friday Worship

Crossroads: Traveling With our Savior

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE

March 21, 2008

The Good Friday service is a time of quiet reflection on Christ's sacrifice for our sin. It begins in silence - no pre-service music - and it ends in silence - no postlude.

The Chimes

Call to Worship

P: Seek the Lord while he may be found;

C: **Call on him while he is near**

P: Let the wicked forsake his way

C: **And the evil man his thoughts.**

P: Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him,

C: **And to our God, for he will freely pardon.**

Hymn 119: "Were You There"

Confession and Absolution

P: Who may appear in your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on you for help?

C: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart; he shall receive blessings from the Lord.**

P: Precious Savior, the darkness of your hours on the cross surrounds us. We sense what you experienced as you faced the dreadful assaults of Satan as our substitute. We are awed by the commitment to your Father and to us that drove you to the cross to die. Confident that in you we will find help in our time of need, we come to make confession of our sins.

C: **O most holy and righteous Savior and Lord, I am a sinner whose thoughts, words, and actions testify to the evil that lurks within. Though I try to drown my old Adam with his evil deeds and desires by daily contrition and repentance, yet he continues to overcome me. Hear my cry for mercy. Take from me the sin that I have inherited and the sins that I have committed, for the sake of your holy, precious blood and your innocent suffering and death.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his

authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 268: "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 52:13- 53:12

- P: See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness—so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand. Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- C: **Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 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.**
- P: He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 91

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

P: Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

C: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

P: Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

C: During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

P: Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered

C: and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Choir: The Burial

Gospel Lesson: John 19:17-30

Hymn of the Day: 140 God Was There on Calvary

Sermon Text: Mark 15:37, 39



SERMON THEME: Dead End?

- I. Dead End? Not for the centurion.
- II. Dead End? Not for us.

The Offering Is Given

Prayer

P: O Lamb of God, slain for sinners, this evening brings us to the foot of Your cross. Humbly and shamefully we admit that it was for our transgressions that You were innocently pierced and that it was for our iniquities that You were crushed. It was for our peace that You were punished and it was through Your wounds that we now find healing. We thank You for suffering as our substitute.

For us You endured the treachery of Judas; the mockery and mistreatment of Herod; the miscarriage of justice before Annas, Caiaphas and Pilate. For our sins

Your sinless hands and feet were pierced with nails, Your lips tasted of vinegar, Your side was pierced with the spear. Here we witness the tremendous price of our sins that cost You Your life, Lord Jesus. Here we see You as the Lamb of God, who by one sacrifice has freed forever all who trust in You for their salvation. May Your cross ever be the source of our forgiveness, comfort, joy and peace.

As we again see You suspended on the cross of Golgotha, may we, because of Your love be prompted to say with the Apostle: "I am crucified with Christ...and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Bless the preaching of Your cross everywhere, and by its constraining love draw all men to You that they may live with You forevermore. For Your name's sake we ask it.

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, for ever and ever. Amen

Hymn: 139 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

Prayer and Benediction

P: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn: 138 Oh Perfect Life of Love

(We ask that you depart in silence- contemplating the sufferings and death of our Lord)

SUNDAY March 23 - EASTER SERVICES:

6:30 A.M. Sunrise Service

7:30 A.M. Easter Breakfast

9:30 A.M. Easter Festival Worship