



Good Friday— A Service of Darkness
God on Trial: Evidence

*Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
March 29, 2024*

God on Trial: Evidence

“Prove it!” was the refrain of the onlookers, Jewish leaders, soldiers, and criminals. People today demand evidence too. And isn’t there a part of us that wonders as well—especially when facing this sinful world? If Jesus is the Son of God, why does he __, or why doesn’t he __? Maybe they’re right. But Jesus’ gracious words and actions turn our doubts to trust, as they did with one of the criminals (and later the centurion). Jesus asked “Why?” so that we could be sure. God even provided a little resurrection proof that Friday—a preview.

Tonight, we observe the ancient service of darkness known as Tenebrae. It evokes our memories of the joyous anticipation of the Advent season. As each lighted candle is added to the Advent wreath, the light grows as we await the birthday of Christ who is the Light of the World. The symbolism of the candles being snuffed after each lesson of the Passion reading from St. Mark’s Gospel takes us in mind and memory to Golgatha where the cross of Christ was shrouded in thick darkness from noon till the Savior’s death. Even as we solemnly remember the events of this day that changed the world, we remember that darkness could not overcome the light. The devil could not overcome Jesus. Death could not overcome the Lord of Life. Because of the events of this Friday 2000 years ago—this Good Friday—we have an eternal heavenly hope. Soli Deo Gloria! To God alone be the glory!

Please be certain that your cell phone and all electronic devices are off!

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

Congregation: And my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

INTROIT

Psalm 38:1-4, 18, 22; Isaiah 53:5

P: He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;

C: Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.

P: O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger,

C: Nor discipline me in Your wrath!

P: For your arrows have sunk into me,

C: And Your hand has come down on me.

P: There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation;

C: There is no health in my bones because of my sin.

P: For my iniquities have gone over my head;

C: Like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

P: confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

P: He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;

C: Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.

(Gloria Patri is omitted at Tenebrae)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 14:1-25

A Candle Is Extinguished

HYMN “Go to Dark Gethsemane” *LSB #436*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 14: 26-51

A Candle Is Extinguished

HYMN “O Dearest Jesus What Law Hast Thou Broken” *LSB #439 v.1-5*

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 14:53– 15:15

A Candle Is Extinguished

HYMN “Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted” *LSB #451*

Good Friday Responsory

(1 John 2:1; Mark 10:33; Psalm 32:1)

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 15:16-32

A Candle Is Extinguished

HYMN “The Lamb” *LSB #547*

THE MESSAGE: *God on Trial: Evidence*

The offerings are received

Rise for the Crucifixion Reading

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 15:33-47

A Candle Is Extinguished

A reading from Isaiah's Passion

P: Who has believed what He has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 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, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as One from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

C: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds 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. (*Isaiah 53:1-7*)

PRAYERS

P: Lord, have mercy. **C:** Lord, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy. **C:** Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy. **C:** Lord, have mercy.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

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 forever and ever. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. 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; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, because of Your great love for men, You gave Your only-begotten Son to die for us all. Grant unto us a continual remembrance of His innocent suffering and death, that crucifying our sinful flesh with its evil lusts, we may be dead unto sin and alive unto Christ. Give us an earnest faith in our Redeemer. Pardon our sins, having nailed them to Jesus' cross, buried them in His grave, and remember them no more against us. Grant that we may enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Sing My Tongue” LSB #454

P: “ELOI ELOI LAMA SABACHTANI, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Jesus said, “Now is the time for judgment on this world; Now the Prince of this world will be driven out. But when I am lifted up, I will draw all men to myself. I am the Light of the World that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” They took Him down from the cross wrapped Him in linens and laid Him in a tomb near the garden. A great stone was rolled over the mouth of the tomb.

After the silent prayer at the close of the service, please leave the church IN SILENCE in contemplation of the awesome sacrifice that has wrought our redemption.

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to Me, and I to the world” (Gal.6:14).

JOIN US for:

Easter Sunday Divine Services, 7:00 am & 10:00 am

Easter Breakfast at 8:30 am, Children’s Easter Egg Hunt at 9:00 am.