

OUR LORD DID THIS FOR YOU!
Sermon for Good Friday, 2017
Psalm 22

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our Introit from before, Psalm 22: ¹ **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the Words of My groaning?**

² **O My God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, and by night, and I am not silent.**

³ **Nevertheless, You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

⁴ **Our fathers trusted in You. They trusted and You delivered them.**

⁵ **They cried to You and were rescued. They trusted in You and were not ashamed.**

⁶ **However, I am a worm and not a man, scorned by human beings and despised by the people.**

⁷ **All those who see Me ridicule Me. They open their lips wide. They shake their heads, saying,** ⁸ **“Commit it to the LORD! Let Him rescue Him! Let Him deliver Him! For He takes pleasure in Him.”**

⁹ **Nevertheless, You are the One who brought Me out of the womb, the One who made Me trust while on My mother’s breasts.**

¹⁰ **I have been cast on You from the womb. From My mother’s womb You have been My God.**

¹¹ **Do not be far from Me! For trouble is near, for there is no one to help.**

¹² **Many bulls have surrounded Me. Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.**

¹³ **They have opened their mouths against Me like a mangling and roaring lion.**

¹⁴ **I have been poured out like water, and all My bones have separated from each other. My heart has become like wax. It has melted inside my chest.**

¹⁵ **My strength has dried up like baked clay. My tongue clings to My palate, and You are putting Me on the dust of death.**

¹⁶ **For dogs have surrounded Me. A gang of evil-doers has encircled Me. Like a lion they have pierced My hands and My feet.**

- ¹⁷ I can count all My bones. People look and stare at Me.
- ¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, and they cast lots for My clothing.
- ¹⁹ However, You, O LORD, do not be far away! O My Strength, come quickly to help Me!
- ²⁰ Rescue My soul from the sword! Rescue My lonely soul from the power of the dog!
- ²¹ Save Me from the lion's mouth! You have answered Me from the horns of wild oxen.
- ²² Let Me declare Your name to My brothers! I shall praise You in the middle of the assembly.
- ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him! Be afraid of Him, all you descendants of Israel!
- ²⁴ For He has not despised or detested the misery of the Wretched One, and He has not hidden His face from Him. Rather, when He cried to Him for help, He heard.
- ²⁵ My praise comes from You in the great assembly. I shall fulfil My vows in the presence of those who fear Him.
- ²⁶ Humble people will eat and be satisfied. Those who seek the LORD will praise Him. May your hearts live for ever!
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD. All the families of the nations will worship before You.
- ²⁸ For the kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ All the prosperous people of the earth have been eating and worshipping. All those who go down to the dust will kneel before Him, even the one who could not keep himself alive.
- ³⁰ Descendants will serve Him. The coming generation will be told about the Lord.
- ³¹ They will come and tell about His righteousness to a people yet to be born. For He has accomplished it.

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Throughout Lent, our sermons have been based on the seven Penitential Psalms. On this Good Friday, we consider what is referred to as the Passion Psalm, Psalm

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22, one of the most-quoted psalms in the New Testament. While all the Penitential Psalms describe primarily the sufferings and deliverance of David or some other king, Psalm 22 rises beyond to give a graphic prophecy of the suffering and triumph of the Messiah Himself, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Only Isaiah 53 equals this psalm as an Old Testament description of how our Saviour, who is God made flesh, would suffer and die.

What a terrible and sad day it is when God dies! But what a blessed and holy day it is when God dies *for us*, His death for our life. I pray that this death is indeed the source of true life for each of you. For without the life that Jesus gives through His death, we can live physically, biologically, but not spiritually, not eternally with God. Without Jesus Christ we are dead while living, dead in trespasses and sin.

Today we are going to consider what it is that happened to Jesus on this Good Friday as it was prophesied in Psalm 22. We shall also consider what this should mean for us.

From Psalm 22, we see a graphic description of Jesus' suffering and death. As already noted, only Isaiah 53 comes close to describing Jesus' suffering and death in such intricate detail. While Isaiah wrote some seven hundred years before the Word became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, David was writing over one thousand years prior to our Lord's incarnation and crucifixion. While the situation described in this psalm may correspond in some slight degree with what David faced, possibly when he was being pursued by King Saul, Psalm 22 goes beyond a foreshadowing of what David's Son, who is also David's Lord, would experience. The Old Testament is filled with such foreshadowing, or what is also called *typology*: something happens in the past that foreshadows something greater that happens in the future. Yet, Psalm 22 goes beyond typology to what is actually direct prophecy. Here the Holy Spirit has moulded the utterances of David so that the psalm reaches far beyond the typical facts, something David may have experienced himself, penetrating to the word of divine prophecy to the extent that Christ here actually speaks through His forebear David, making the typical suffering of His ancestor the medium for the explicit representation of Jesus' own future suffering and death. On this Good Friday, we can't help but stand in awe of God's omniscient and omnipotent prophecy and fulfillment.

Psalm 22 begins with what would be the fourth of Jesus' words from the cross: **"¹ My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**

These are the words of the sacrificial Lamb from earth toward heaven. They are words that imply devotion instead of despair, because while forsaken by God the Father, the Crucified One still calls out to God as “**My God,**” not once, but twice. This is a mystery that only eternity can penetrate: God is forsaken by God. The forsakeness of Jesus, the Christ, is unique because He places Himself under the judgment of God as He bears the sins of all people for all time. He cannot be spared from experiencing God’s full wrath against sinful humanity. He must face it completely as if He Himself were guilty. He who is completely innocent and holy came to take our place and to represent us before God as the Second Adam who was forced to experience the agonies and terrors of hell in order to free us from sin and death and hell. And out of the infinite depth of this experience of God’s wrath, which in this case is no mere appearance, but is the sternest and most severe reality of actually being forsaken by God the Father, comes the cry of His complaint: “**1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**” It is a cry to His God and Father, which penetrates God’s wrath, reaching all the way to the eternal and steadfast love of God for us.

Jesus is also the recipient of much mocking by the people. He is **a worm and not a man, scorned by human beings and despised by the people.** ⁷ **All those who see (Him) ridicule (Him). They open their lips wide. They shake their heads, saying,** ⁸ **“Commit it to the LORD! Let Him rescue Him! Let Him deliver Him! For He takes pleasure in Him.”** In their mockery, Jesus’ enemies draw the conclusion that God does not want to rescue Him.

The cruelty of Jesus’ enemies is graphically portrayed by comparing them to vicious animals: bulls, lions, and dogs. ¹² **Many bulls have surrounded Me. Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.** ¹³ **They have opened their mouths against Me like a mangling and roaring lion...** ¹⁶ **For dogs have surrounded Me.** When they beat Jesus, they were like bulls trampling a person underfoot. When they tore His flesh, they were like lions tearing their prey. When He was on the cross, they surrounded Him like a pack of wild dogs. The crucifixion is graphically described in that they have **pierced (His) hands and (His) feet**. At the foot of the cross are the Roman soldiers who carry out the sentence. According to Roman custom, the garments of the victims were a part of the soldiers’ booty. Even before our Lord’s death, they are already dividing the spoils. Jesus’ robe is without a seam, so ¹⁸ **they divide (His) garments among them, and they cast lots for (His) clothing.** Christ’s enemies, however, would not have power to do

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all of this if God had not given it to them. Therefore, it is God Himself who lays the crucified Saviour low to death. All of this is in accordance with the Father's divine will, even as it was prophesied in Psalm 22. And remember, God enabled David to write all this over a thousand years before Good Friday.

Our dying Saviour knows this. He also knows that the mocking of His tormentors cannot be true. From His incarnation, the Father declared His love for His only-begotten Son. Angels announced His future glory to Mary and Joseph even before He was born. At His nativity, angels announced the peace He would bring. The Father personally declared His pleasure at Jesus' baptism and transfiguration. In the same way, Jesus had shown His love and obedience to the Father throughout His life. He would not renounce the love of His Father now. In Psalm 22, our suffering and dying Lord proclaims God's holiness and His trust that the Father will work deliverance through the terror He is undergoing now, even in and through His terrible agony.

The intensity of Jesus' suffering is described further through a number of graphic pictures. He has **been poured out like water**. His **strength has dried up like baked clay**, and His **tongue clings to (His) palate**. The statement "**I can count all My bones**" apparently refers to the way in which He was stripped of His clothes and hung on the cross. These words of Psalm 22 portray the suffering that led our crucified Lord to cry out, "*I thirst.*"¹

In Psalm 22, our suffering Lord goes on to tell why He has been forsaken by God, why He has faced the mocking of His tormentors, why He has undergone the intensity of this suffering and death. ²² **Let Me declare Your name to My brothers! I shall praise You in the middle of the assembly.** ²³ **You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him! Be afraid of Him, all you descendants of Israel!** ²⁴ **For He has not despised or detested the misery of the Wretched One, and He has not hidden His face from Him. Rather, when He cried to Him for help, He heard.** ²⁵ **My praise comes from You in the great assembly. I shall fulfil My vows in the presence of those who fear Him.**

The Father let the Son die for the sins of His people so He could restore them and grant eternal blessings. The **assembly** (congregation) shall hear the good news of His rescue. Christ suffered as one who was separated from God as a result of

¹ John 19:28

the curse of our sins. As we learn in Psalm 16 and as we'll see on Easter morning, the Father did not abandon His Son to the grave, but He was raised to life and glory. In the closing verses of Psalm 22, the Messiah promises to declare the good news of what He has accomplished in the congregation of God's people. ²⁶ **Humble people will eat and be satisfied. Those who seek the LORD will praise Him....** ²⁷ **All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD. All the families of the nations will worship before (Him)....** ²⁹ **All the prosperous people of the earth have been eating and worshipping. All those who go down to the dust will kneel before Him, even the one who could not keep himself alive.** ³⁰ **Descendants will serve Him. The coming generation will be told about the Lord.** ³¹ **They will come and tell about His righteousness to a people yet to be born.**

In Hebrews 2:10-18, we see the further fulfillment of this prophecy. Through His atoning suffering and death, our crucified Lord calls us brothers. Through faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we are truly God's children who share in His suffering and death, in His flesh and blood. Through Jesus Christ, we have deliverance from sin, death, and the devil. He is now our High Priest, who is able to help us in any suffering or tribulation that we face.

Christ's kingdom will be spread throughout the earth and through every generation until the end of time. He is the Saviour of all people, both poor and rich, and all who turn to Him in faith will receive the blessings of His kingdom. All who trust in Him will be fed at the banquet of eternal life. He continues to feed us now through His Word and in His Holy Supper, where He gives us to eat and drink His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Psalm 22 ends with the Hebrew word '*asah*', "**He has accomplished it.**" It can also be translated "*It is done*" or "*It is... finished*" - and you know where else we hear that! This last word of the psalm expresses the very words you'll also hear from the lips of our crucified Saviour. "*It is finished.*" This is the completion for which all of creation had been waiting since the fall of mankind into sin. There, on that very cross, on Good Friday, is our salvation. There, at that very point and time in history, God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself.² That is what Jesus proclaimed when He had completed all that was necessary for mankind's redemption. It is accomplished. Our reconciliation and atonement was finished on

² 2 Corinthians 5:19

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the cross. There is nothing more that we can possibly do or add to that. Our Great Substitute has paid the incomprehensible price of ransom, appeasing God's just wrath to the uttermost: "*not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death,*" (SC, Second Article).

How then shall we view what was prophesied in Psalm 22 one thousand years before Jesus was born, which He then accomplished on the cross on Good Friday? What should this mean for you and me on this Good Friday almost two thousand years later?

Well, above all, by the working of the Holy Spirit, Christ's death on the cross should mean repentance and faith for us. In the first place, there is no better location for us sinners to come to true repentance than at the foot of the cross of Calvary. For it is here where we see human sinfulness in its highest degree, or rather, in its greatest depth, and it is here that we see the most dreadful consequences of sin.

If we really want to see the depths of human depravity, we must go to Golgotha. For who is it that hangs here between heaven and earth, between two criminals, with flesh torn to shreds and blood spattering His body and dripping to the ground, with hands and feet pierced through? Who is He that here is slowly being tortured to death? He is not a criminal, for even one of the crucified criminals says, "*This man has done nothing wrong.*"³ However, He is more than just an innocent man. He is the Son of the Most High God, the Lord of glory, the Word made flesh, by whom all things were created. This is the One whom people took, hung on a cross, suspended between earth and heaven, and slowly, tortuously murdered. That was without question the most hideous, shameful, wicked, and cursed deed that has ever been conceived in human hearts and carried out by human hands. Here we see what the human heart and mind are capable of conceiving, thinking, planning, doing. Here we see human sinfulness in its greatest depth. And even though you and I were not there personally, our sin played a part in that. Shouldn't we be appalled that we are human beings and that we belong to a species, the human race, that has made itself guilty of such a crime against God? We did that! Shouldn't we hang our heads in shame?

³ Luke 23:41

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Yet at Calvary, we not only see sin in its highest degree and greatest depth, but we also see its most dreadful consequences. For what Christ has here suffered, He endured not for His sins, but willingly for ours. What we see Christ Jesus suffering is what we should have suffered eternally on account of our sin. The pains that He suffered, we should have suffered. And Christ was forsaken by God the Father. From this we see that, because of our sin, we deserved eternal rejection by God - eternal rejection in hell. On Golgotha, God has written the Law before our eyes in bold, bloody letters: *“The wages of sin is death!”* That kind of death!

Finally, on the cross we also see sin as an unbearable burden that we never would have been able to carry. If it had been possible for any creature to bear and atone for the sins of mankind, would God have willingly given His only-begotten Son unto death to make such atonement? If God could have saved mankind any other way, wouldn't He have done so? What an insult against God sin must be, since God would not be reconciled unless His own Son died as a sacrifice in our place so that we may live. Thus, the death of the Son of God on the cross for our sins calls us to true repentance, that is, to true sorrow, despair, and remorse over our sin.

Yet, the new life in Christ does not consist only in terror and despair over our sin, but also and above all, it calls us to a firm faith in God's grace and steadfast love. And here, at the cross of Calvary, we find the greatest demonstration of God's willingness to pardon and save us poor, miserable sinners. Here we see the height and depth, width and breadth of God's love for us: for God gave His own Son unto death so that we could have pardon and peace.

As we come before the cross of Christ, terrified over our sins, Jesus cries out, *“Father, forgive them,”* and *“It is finished.”* Be comforted; ALL YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN! Don't ask, *“What more shall I do?”* There is nothing for you to add. Christ Jesus has already done everything; you should only believe in Him. If you feel your sins are many and great, then look up and see your Saviour who has endured the most and greatest afflictions and suffering for your forgiveness. On the cross, the words stand clearly before all sinners: Repent, for you shall die! But just as clearly shine the words for terrified hearts: Believe and you shall live!

Today, Good Friday, Jesus died His death for us. Now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to repent of our sins and believe that Christ Jesus has paid the ultimate price for us. Therein we have forgiveness and life. That God prepared this

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from the foundation of the world, that He used King David to prophesy and proclaim this in such graphic detail more than one thousand years before it happened, that Jesus accomplished each detail completely and fully so that He would taste death for everyone - that is a remarkable demonstration of God's faithfulness and steadfast love. Thereby, Jesus has made us His brothers and sisters, children of God, and heirs of eternal life.

Dear Christian friends, on this Good Friday, be comforted, even in your sorrow over sin, for our Lord did this for you! Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

O God the Father Almighty, we praise You for Your eternal wisdom and mercy, in which You ordained that Your Son should be the sacrifice for our sin. We praise You that, by His being lifted up on the cross, He draws all people to Himself, taking away their iniquity, and granting them peace.

In this holy hour we thank and praise You for His sacrificial love, for His perfect obedience, for His patience in suffering, for His willingness to endure even the cross, and for His submission to death.

Help us to see, in the darkness that accompanied His dying, in the shaking of the earth, and in the splitting of the rocks, how great an evil was done by sinful people, how great a life was ended, and how great a death was inflicted. But through the tearing open of the veil of the Temple, and the opening of the graves of the saints, show us our sure entrance into the heavenly Holy of holies.

We thank You, O Father, for all that Jesus Your Son, our Lord, has done, for all that He has suffered, for all that He has given us, and for all that He has promised us. We bow in adoration, and offer our prayers from the depths of grateful hearts. We join with the angels and with all Your redeemed people of every race, tribe, nation, and language in raising our song of thanksgiving: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honour, glory, and praise for ever."

As we remember our Saviour's passion, grant that we may treasure the things that belong to our salvation. As we remember His suffering, make us ready to pass through many troubles to enter the kingdom of God. As we remember His wounds, equip us to cope with every painful struggle. As we remember His

crucifixion, teach us to crucify our worthless passions and desires. As we remember His death, help us to be ready to place our spirit in Your hands. As we remember His burial, help us to remember that He has transformed the graves of all His believers.

We rejoice, O Father, that we have received Your mercy and seen Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Give us Your continuing grace through Him who died and rose again for us, and who reigns as the Lamb on the throne for ever and ever. Amen.

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Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹³ “Look! My Servant will be successful. He will be high, be lifted up, and be highly exalted. ¹⁴ As there have been many who have been horrified because of You, - since His appearance has been more disfigured than any other man, and His form more than any other human being, - ¹⁵ so He will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths because of Him. For they will see what they had not been told, and they will understand what they had not heard.”

^{53:1} Who has believed our Message? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before Him like a young shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him. He had nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and

familiar with suffering. Like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we thought of Him as nothing. ⁴ Surely He has taken on Himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows. Yet we considered Him to be wounded, struck down by God and afflicted. ⁵ However, He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed. ⁶ We have all gone astray, like sheep. Each one of us has turned to his own way, and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ Although He was oppressed and He was afflicted, He did not open His mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and, as a ewe is silent before those who shear off her wool, so He did not open His mouth. ⁸ He was taken away through oppression and without justice. As for His generation, who considered

that He was cut off from the land of the living? Because of the rebellion of my people He was struck down.⁹ He assigned His grave with wicked people, but He was with a rich man in His death, although He had done nothing violent, and there was no deceit in His mouth.¹⁰ Nevertheless, it was the will of the LORD to crush Him with suffering. When You make His life a sacrifice for guilt, He will see His offspring. He will have a long life, and the will of the LORD will be successful in His hand.¹¹ Because of the anguish of His soul, He will see and be satisfied.

“Through His knowledge My righteous Servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities.¹²

Therefore I shall divide Him a portion among great people, and He will divide the plunder with strong people, because He poured out His life to death, and He was numbered with wrongdoers. Nevertheless, He has carried the sin of many people, and He intercedes for the wrongdoers.”

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great High Priest, who has gone through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us cling to what we confess!¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathise with

our weaknesses. However, we have One who has been tempted in every way like us. Yet He was without sin.¹⁶ Therefore let us come boldly to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help us when we need it! ...

^{5:7} During His days in the human nature, Jesus offered prayers and petitions, with loud cries and tears, to the One who could save Him from death; and, because He feared God, He was heard.⁸ Although Jesus is the Son, He learned obedience from the things that He suffered.⁹ When He was perfected, He also became the Source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

John 19:17-30

¹⁷ Jesus went out, carrying His own cross, to the place that was called “the Place of the Skull,” which is called “Golgotha” in Aramaic.¹⁸ There they crucified Him with two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a notice and put it on the cross. It read: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

²⁰ Therefore many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The notice had been written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

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²¹ Therefore the high priests of the Jews told Pilate, “Do not write: ‘The King of the Jews,’ but: ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews”!’”

²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³ So when the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His outer garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier, and also the undergarment. The undergarment was without a seam, woven from the top in one piece. ²⁴ Therefore they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but let us throw dice for it, to decide who will get it!”

This happened in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: “They divided My outer garments among them, and they cast lots for My clothing.”

So that is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Jesus’ mother, His mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross of Jesus.

²⁶ Therefore, when Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, there is your son.” ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, “There is your mother.”

From that time on, this disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸ After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

²⁹ A jar full of sour wine had been placed there. So they put a sponge full of the sour wine on hyssop and lifted it to His mouth.

³⁰ When Jesus had taken the sour wine, He said, “It is finished.” Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.