

GOOD FRIDAY 2018

John 19:17-30.

LSB Hymns:426, 454, [447 The Third Word,] 439 v's 1-5, and 10, 622, 922.

Introit: Psalm 22

P My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the Words of My groaning?

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

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

C Our fathers trusted in You. They trusted and You delivered them.

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

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

P All those who see Me ridicule Me. They open their lips wide. They shake their heads, saying,

C "Commit it to the LORD! Let Him rescue Him! Let Him deliver Him! For He takes pleasure in Him."

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

C I have been cast on You from the womb. From My mother's womb You have been My God.

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

C Many bulls have surrounded Me. Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.

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

C 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.

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

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

P I can count all My bones. People look and stare at Me.

C They divide My garments among them, and they cast lots for My clothing.

P However, You, O LORD, do not be far away! O My Strength, come quickly to help Me!

C Rescue My soul from the sword! Rescue My lonely soul from the power of the dog!

P Save Me from the lion's mouth! You have answered Me from the horns of wild oxen.

C Let Me declare Your name to My brothers! I shall praise You in the middle of the assembly.

P You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him! Be afraid of Him, all you descendants of Israel!

C 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.

P My praise comes from You in the great assembly. I shall fulfil My vows in the presence of those who fear Him.

C Humble people will eat and be satisfied. Those who seek the LORD will praise Him. May your hearts live for ever!

P All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD. All the families of the nations will worship before You.

C For the kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations.

P 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.

C Descendants will serve Him. The coming generation will be told about the Lord.

All They will come and tell about His righteousness to a people yet to be born. For He has accomplished it.

Collect: 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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

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

Gospel: John 19:17-30.

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 the sermon is the Gospel heard before, 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. -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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us in your truth. Your Word is truth. **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ,
Peace be with you.

Let's talk about the crucifixion. As a method of public execution, it was used by many nations in the ancient world. The Romans learned it from their enemies, the Carthaginians, as a punishment for criminals. In the early years of the Roman Republic, they thought of crucifixion as a vile, barbarian practice. But eventually the Romans adopted this to prevent slave rebellions. All slaves who killed Roman citizens were crucified. Eventually, crucifixion was reserved for the worst criminals, as the most severe form of torture and punishment.

Most of the crucified were tortured beforehand as Christ was tortured. The most common form of torture was flogging. Also, the crucified, like Christ, suffered the ridicule of bystanders because crucifixion was a public event. The crucified suffered not only physical agony, but also humiliation and shame.

The Romans nailed the hands and feet to the wood of the cross. Some historians believe that they pounded the nails through the wrists, others think nails through the palms produced the maximum pain. Moreover the victim had to push against the tree with his feet to prevent the collapse of the thoracic cavity. After many hours, the victim died of suffocation or heart attack.

At times the Romans crucified hundreds in one day. Crucifixion is not just a matter of ancient history. Today radical Muslims have crucified Christians in the Middle East. We pray for our fellow believers who suffer in the name of the Lord.

However, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is still something special. In this case, the Crucified was the Son of God. For all the inhabitants of the ancient world crucifixion was the ultimate and most humiliating of every imaginable misfortune. That was why it was so difficult for both Jews and Greeks to accept the idea that a crucified man could be the Son of God. But the truth of the matter is; The Son of God suffered the most terrible punishment, the punishment that we deserve, to rescue us from our sins.

The Romans used to write on a sign the crime for which the crucified died. In the case of Jesus, the sign was nailed to the wood above His head. The signpost on the cross of Christ read that Christ was the true king of the Jews. Pontius Pilate commanded this be written to mock the Messianic hopes of the Jews. It meant that this poor Man who didn't harm a fly is the kind of king the Jews deserved.

But the joke was on Pilate, because of the cross the sign proclaimed the truth. Christ was the true king of the Jews and today sits at the right hand of the Father as King of kings. Millions of people in the world today believe this.

It's because of His crucifixion Christ is worthy to have all authority in heaven and earth. He saved the world by His suffering and death. As John says in Revelation; **1 In the right hand of Him who was sitting on the throne I saw a scroll with writing on the inside and on the back, which had been sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a mighty angel, proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break the seals on it?" 3 No one in heaven, on the earth, or under the earth could open the scroll or look at it. 4 I was weeping bitterly because no one had been found who was worthy to open the scroll or look at it. 5 Then one of the elders told me: "Stop weeping! Look! The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has won the victory, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 Then I saw, in the middle of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the middle of the elders, a Lamb standing, looking as though it had been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the Seven Spirits of God, who have been sent into all the earth. 7 Then He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the One who was sitting on the throne. 8 When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each held a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's holy people. 9 They sang a new song, with the words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because You have been slain; and by Your blood You have purchased people to be God's own out of every tribe, language, people, and nation. 10 You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands. 12 They were saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who has been slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing!" 13 Then I heard every creature that is in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and on the sea, and all that are in them, saying: "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing, honour, glory, and power for ever and ever!" 14 The four living creatures were saying, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshipped.**
[Revelation 5: 1-14,] **Amen.**

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

3rd Hymn: 447 The Third Word,

Bidding Prayer Good Friday / Prayer of the Church.

The Bidding Prayer is the traditional prayer that is used on Good Friday. This is taken from the LSB Altar Book (pp. 406ff.). Please respond at the end of each petition with Amen.

P Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

Brief Silence,

P Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church

that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ, through Jesus Christ, our Lord:

C Amen.

P Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our people that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O merciful Father in heaven, we pray for those in authority over us, especially our prime minister, federal, state, and local governments. Those in the police, doctors, nurse's, fire and ambulance and state emergency services, and our military personal serving to aid all Your people. Instill upon them the conviction that they are Your servants to guide, protect, defend, and to promote peace and good order in our land. Lead them to act honestly and justly for the welfare of all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

**All: 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.

4th Hymn: , 439 v's 1-5, and 10,