

# *Good Friday Service*

*April 15, 2022*

*You are invited to use this in your own home or in the sanctuary alongside the Prayer Stations. Please gather your Bible, a candle and cross (this may be a physical cross or a drawn one).*



## *Call to Worship*

Come to this place apart to draw near to God, and to navigate darkness (light a candle).  
Come to this place to pray; “God, who has given us life, meet us here.”

**Will God be revealed to us on this sorrowful day? Has not God turned away and forsaken us?**

Come, all who are weary and discouraged; God, whom you have trusted, has not deserted you.

**Will God hear our cries and replenish our strength?**

**Who can believe in the midst of such sorrow?**

Come, all who have laid loved ones to rest; God, who grieves with us, watches with us now.

**Will God’s promise of new life be realized? How shall we know truth, when truth is crucified?**

We come because we know we must not forget this day and all that happened.

## *Were You There? Verse 1*

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

## *Call to Confession*

Who is it who has heard the cock crow and remembered words of denial and acts of desertion? Who has shouted, “Crucify!”—if not with voice, with deeds that destroy God’s truth? Who has fled, in the face of ridicule or danger, from Christ’s call to discipleship?

Listen! God is calling us back. What can we say?

### *Prayer of Confession*

Savior of the world, what have you done to deserve this? And what have we done to deserve you? Strung up between criminals, cursed and spat upon, you wait for death, but search for us, for us whose sin has crucified you. To the mystery of undeserved suffering, you bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love. Forgive us for not knowing what we have done. Open our eyes to what we are doing now, as, through wood and nails, you disempower our depravity and transform us by your grace. (Name in your silent prayers pieces you feel you need to turn over to God.) Amen.

### *Where You There? Verse 2*

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

### *Sit with our Scripture*

Read Luke 23:32–34

Now two others, both criminals, were led away with Jesus to be crucified. When they came to the place called Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said: **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

*(Take a moment of pause.)* Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**Jesus, we believe in you, we hope in you, we love you. Through your cross bring us to the hope of the resurrection.**

*(Take a moment of pause.)*

Read Luke 23:39–43

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying:

**“Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.”**

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply:

**“Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.”**

Then he said, **“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”**

Jesus replied to him, **“Amen. I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

*(Take a moment of pause.)* Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**Jesus, we believe in you, we hope in you, we love you. Through your cross you brought us the hope of the resurrection.**



**Jesus, Remember Me**

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
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Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
*(Take a moment of pause.) Silence*

Read Matthew 27:45–46 and Luke 23:44–46

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

**“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

**“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”**

*(Take a moment of pause.)* Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**Jesus, we believe in you, we hope in you, we love you. Through your cross you brought us the hope of resurrection.** Have mercy on us, O Lord.

*Reproaches of the Cross*

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you, or 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. **Lord, have mercy.**

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna; I brought you through tribulation and penitence,

and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Lord, have mercy.**

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,

I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced the side of your Savior with a spear and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Lord, have mercy.**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.

I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst,

and you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Lord, have mercy.**

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Lord, have mercy.**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Lord, have mercy.**

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Creator and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Lord, have mercy.**

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, and you turned on my people with persecution and mass murder. I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Lord, have mercy.**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, 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. **Lord, have mercy.**

Holy God who hovers daily round us in fidelity and compassion, this day we are mindful of the dreaded hovering of death before which we stand thin and needful. On this day of all days, a great threat looms so large and powerful. It is not for nothing that we tremble at these three hours of darkness and the raging earthquake. It is not for nothing . . . so we come in our helpless candor this day . . . remembering, giving thanks, and mourning the death of Jesus on the cross.

Our only urging on this Friday is that you live this as we must— impacted but not destroyed, dimmed but not quenched. For your great staying power and your promise of newness we praise you. It is in your power and your promise that we take our stand this day. We dare trust that Friday is never the last day, so we watch for the new day of life. Amen

*Sending*

Wait and watch. Hold all these in your heart.

*Sit in the silence of this time and space of worship. When you are ready to finish, leave your Bible open with the cross beside it and blown out your candle.*

