

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Beulah, North Dakota

Good Friday

April 7, 2023



THE OLD RUGGED, WOODEN CROSS

Since the altar is stripped and the paraments are gone, the wood of the altar and pulpit is fully exposed. Wood reminds you what took place on the tree of the cross, where your Lord once died. Jesus' cross brings peace, forgiveness, and salvation. By it, the lives of Christians are rescued, sweetened, and lightened. We reflect upon these familiar words of "The Old Rugged Cross" penned by American composer George Bennard in 1912:

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

All enter the church in silence.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold Your family gathered here at the foot of the wooden cross of Your dear Son, who delivers us from our sin so that we may have life and have it abundantly; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 6:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Epistle

Colossians 2:13-15

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

✠ THE SEVEN LAST WORDS ✠

We reflect on the seven last words that Jesus spoke from the wooden cross.

WORD OF PARDON

Luke 23:33-34

Hymn # 440, st. 1

WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 23:39-43

Hymn # 440, st. 2

WORD OF LOVE

John 19:25-27

Hymn # 451, st. 1

WORD OF JUSTICE

Matthew 27:45-46

Hymn # 451, st. 2

WORD OF TORMENT

John 19:28

Hymn # 451, st. 3

WORD OF TRIUMPH

John 19:30

Hymn # 451, st. 4

WORD OF REST

Luke 23:46

Hymn # 427

Offering

The Lord's Prayer

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:
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.

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.
O, come, let us worship him.

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✠ REPROACHES ✠

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

Adoration of Christ

We adore You, O Lord, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection. For behold, by the wood of Your cross joy has come into all the world. God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us. We adore You, O Lord, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection. For behold, by the wood of Your cross joy has come into all the world.

Concluding Collect

Let us pray.

We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; 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.

Hymn # 425

All leave in silence.