



## **Order of Worship for Good Friday Service titled *The Way of the Cross***

April 18, 2025

Vasa Lutheran Church

Pastor Maureen Hagen and Anne Anderson, accompanist

As we gather to remember Good Friday we will use a model for worship loosely based on a devotion called "*The Way of the Cross*." This model was adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus.

Traditionally, there have been as many as fourteen stations. Tonight we will hear the story of Jesus' trial, crucifixion, and death from the gospel of Luke in seven sections. Each section includes sentences and responses, scripture verses, a prayer, and a hymn.

*We gather in silence.*

## **OPENING PRAYERS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**in whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.**

Let us pray: Mercifully assist us, **O Lord God of our salvation, that we may remember with joy the mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **FIRST STATION: JESUS BEFORE PILATE**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy and hear us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Luke 23:1-7 Then they all took Jesus to Pilate and began to bring up charges against him. They said, "We found this man undermining our law and order, forbidding taxes to be paid to Caesar, setting himself up as Messiah-King."

Pilate asked him, "Is this true that you're 'King of the Jews'?"

"Those are your words, not mine," Jesus replied.

Pilate told the high priests and the accompanying crowd, "I find nothing wrong here. He seems harmless enough to me."

But they were vehement. "He's stirring up unrest among the people with his teaching, disturbing the peace everywhere, starting in Galilee and now all through Judea. He's a dangerous man, endangering the peace."

When Pilate heard that, he asked, "So, he's a Galilean?" Realizing that he properly came under Herod's jurisdiction, he passed the buck to Herod, who just happened to be in Jerusalem for a few days.

God did not spare his own Son,  
**but delivered him up for us all.**

Let us pray: Almighty God, **your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**HYMN**

**What Wondrous Love is This?**

**ELW 666**

**SECOND STATION: JESUS BEFORE HEROD**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy and hear us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Luke 23:8-12 Herod was delighted when Jesus showed up. He had wanted for a long time to see him, he'd heard so much about him. He hoped to see him do something spectacular. He peppered him with questions. Jesus didn't answer—not one word. But the high priests and religion scholars were right there, saying their piece, strident and shrill in their accusations.

Mightily offended, Herod turned on Jesus. His soldiers joined in, taunting and jeering. Then they dressed him up in an elaborate king costume and sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became thick as thieves. Always before they had kept their distance.

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

**for the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

Let us pray: Almighty God, **whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen**

**HYMN**

**Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

**ELW 335**

### **THIRD STATION: JESUS BEFORE PILATE A SECOND TIME**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy and hear us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Luke 23:13-25 Then Pilate called in the high priests, rulers, and the others and said, "You brought this man to me as a disturber of the peace. I examined him in front of all of you and found there was nothing to your charge. And neither did Herod, for he has sent him back here with a clean bill of health. It's clear that he's done nothing wrong, let alone anything deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

At that, the crowd went wild: "Kill him! Give us Barabbas!" (Barabbas had been thrown in prison for starting a riot in the city and for murder.) Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go, and so spoke out again.

But they kept shouting back, "Crucify! Crucify him!"

He tried a third time. "But for what crime? I've found nothing in him deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

But they kept at it, a shouting mob, demanding that he be crucified. And finally they shouted him down. Pilate caved in and gave them what they wanted. He released the man thrown in prison for rioting and murder, and gave them Jesus to do whatever they wanted.

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me  
**cannot be my disciple.**

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, **whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen**

## HYMN

### There Is a Green Hill Far Away



1 There is a green hill far a - way, out - side a cit - y wall,  
2 We may not know, we can - not tell, what pains he had to bear,  
3 He died that we might be for - giv'n; he died to make us good,



where the dear Lord was cru - ci - fied, who died to save us all.  
but we be - lieve it was for us he hung and suf - fered there.  
that we might go at last to heav'n, saved by his pre - cious blood.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1823–1895

Music: WINDSOR, Daman, *Booke of Musicke*, 1591

### **FOURTH STATION: SIMON OF CYRENE CARRIES THE CROSS FOR JESUS**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy and hear us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Luke 23:26-31 As they led him off, they made Simon, a man from Cyrene who happened to be coming in from the countryside, carry the cross behind Jesus. A huge crowd of people followed, along with women weeping and carrying on. At one point Jesus turned to the women and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children. The time is coming when they'll say, 'Lucky the women who never conceived! Lucky the wombs that never gave birth! Lucky the breasts that never gave milk!' Then they'll start calling to the mountains, 'Fall down on us!' calling to the hills, 'Cover us up!' If people do these things to a live, green tree, can you imagine what they'll do with deadwood?"

Those who sowed with tears  
**will reap with songs of joy.**

Let us pray: Teach your church, **O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

## **FIFTH STATION: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED BETWEEN TWO CRIMINALS**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy and hear us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Luke 23:32-43 Two others, both criminals, were taken along with him for execution.

When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing."

Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them. The people stood there staring at Jesus, and the ringleaders made faces, taunting, "He saved others. Let's see him save himself! The Messiah of God—ha! The Chosen—ha!"

The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. They toasted him with sour wine: "So you're King of the Jews! Save yourself!"

Printed over him was a sign: this is the king of the jews.

One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: "Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!"

But the other one made him shut up: "Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him—he did nothing to deserve this."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom."

He said, "Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise."

They gave me gall to eat,

**and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.**

Let us pray: O God, **your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**HYMN**

**O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

**ELW 351**

## **SIXTH STATION: THE DEATH OF JESUS**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy and hear us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Luke 23:44-49 By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours—a total blackout. The Temple curtain split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, “Father, I place my life in your hands!” Then he breathed his last.

When the captain there saw what happened, he honored God: “This man was innocent! A good man, and innocent!”

All who had come around as spectators to watch the show, when they saw what actually happened, were overcome with grief and headed home. Those who knew Jesus well, along with the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a respectful distance and kept vigil.

They pierce my hands and my feet;  
**they stare and gloat over me.**

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, **you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. Amen**

**HYMN**

**Were You There?**

**ELW 353**

*We will sing verses 1-3*

### **SEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy and hear us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Luke 23:50-56 There was a man by the name of Joseph, a member of the Jewish High Council, a man of good heart and good character. He had not gone along with the plans and actions of the council. His hometown was the Jewish village of Arimathea. He lived in alert expectation of the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Taking him down, he wrapped him in a linen shroud and placed him in a tomb chiseled into the rock, a tomb never yet used. It was the day before Sabbath, the Sabbath just about to begin.

The women who had been companions of Jesus from Galilee followed along. They saw the tomb where Jesus’ body was placed. Then they went back to prepare burial spices and perfumes. They rested quietly on the Sabbath, as commanded.

You will not abandon me to the grave,  
**nor let your holy one see corruption.**

Let us pray: O God, **your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day. Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen**

### **CONCLUSION**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy and hear us.**

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.  
**Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

Let us pray: We thank you, **heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

To Christ our Lord who loves us, washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

**Amen**

### **HYMN**

**Were You There (sts. 4-5)**

**ELW 353**

*These verses will be sung by Megan Carlson.*

*All depart in silence after the tolling of the bell.*

