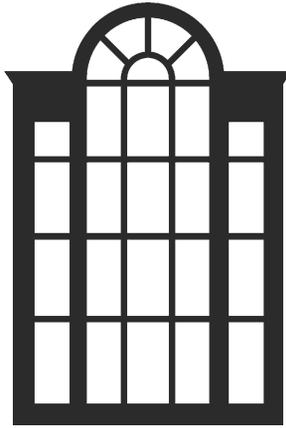


Good Friday Prayer
April 3, 2015



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Friday, April 3, 2015

Lakeside Baptist Church

Call to Worship

Come to this place apart to pray;

God, who has given us life, meets us here.

Will God be revealed to us on this dark 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 the truth, when Truth is crucified?

Prayer

On this day, God of all tears,

you call us in the midst of our busy lives

to look at the suffering and death of the One who came to carry
the pain of the world into your heart.

Give us eyes to see your love this day.

On this day you would gather everyone to your side, Grace of Calvary,
but we leave you to carry the cross alone.

You came simply as love incarnate,

but hate and bitterness were the gifts we offered to you.

You poured out your love so our emptiness might be filled.

Give us ears to hear your pain this day.

On this day, you would pray for us,

for we cannot find the words on our own, Shattered Spirit.

Hear the cries of those in need.

Listen to the lament of the lonely.

Cradle the whispered hopes of children.

Set free the dreams of prisoners and captives.

Give us hearts to pray with you this day.

God in Community, Holy in One,

we lift our prayers to you in the name of the One

who suffered and died for us this day

and who teaches us to pray, 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 for ever.
Amen.**

Scripture: Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

silence

Confession

**At the foot of the cross, we stand with all who have forgotten you
and forsaken the way which you offer to us. Forgive us, Lamb of God,
and fill us with the mercy, the hope, the grace you poured out for us,
as you gave your life for the sins of the world.**

Solo: "O Divine Redeemer"

Charles Gounod

Ah! Turn me not away, receive me tho' unworthy; hear thou my
cry, behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from thy throne. Haste
thee, Lord to mine aid, thy pity shew in my deep anguish! Let not
the sword of vengeance smite me, though righteous thine anger, O
Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me! On thee, Lord, alone will
I call. O Divine Redeemer! I pray thee, grant me pardon, and
remember not, remember not my sins! Forgive me, O Divine
Redeemer! Night gathers round my soul; fearful, I cry to thee;
come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste thee, Lord, haste to help me!
Hear my cry! Save me Lord in thy mercy; come and save me, O
Lord, save, in the day of retribution, from Death shield thou me, O
my God! O Divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Savior!
Ann Sawyer, soloist

Assurance of Pardon

Christ has lifted our suffering onto his shoulders, carrying all our hurts
and rejections into God's heart. There, God casts them away into the sea
of forgetfulness, so we may be restored to hope and live as new people.

**Fed with grace, carried in God's arms, we know that we are
forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

silence

Gospel: John 19:16-42

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus;
and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place
of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him,
and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read,
"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this
inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;
and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests
of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This
man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written
I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes
and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his
tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So
they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who
will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my
clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is

what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

This is the Gospel of our Lord!
Thanks be to God!

silence

Prayer

Let us pray for the holy Church of Christ throughout the world;
For its unity in witness and service
For its ministers and the people whom they serve
For all Christians in this community
That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

silence

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth,
For those in authority among them
For God's help to seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

silence

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;
For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed
For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair
For the sorrowful and bereaved
For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger
That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;
For those who have never heard the word of salvation
For those who have lost their faith
For those hardened by sin or indifference
For the contemptuous and the scornful
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others
That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

silence

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

silence

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

silence

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
and a generosity of service
that gives without counting cost.
A life overflowing with Grace
poured out from the One who gave everything,
that we might show the power of love to a broken world,
and share the truth from a living Word.
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,
and a yearning to share it. **Amen.**

Hymn: "Were You There?" Spiritual

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)**

Blessing:

God of our redemption,
abundantly bless your people
who have devoutly recalled the death of Christ;
grant us forgiveness, renew us, strengthen our faith,
and increase in us the fullness of life;
we ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP
Jody C. Wright, Senior Minister
Elizabeth J. Edwards, Associate Minister
Amy C. Shortt, Minister of Music