

Worship on April 2, 2021 –Good Friday

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP # 235 – Alas, and did my Saviour bleed
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: John 19:28-30
- Sermon: It is finished

We Respond

- Hymn 238 – Beneath the cross of Jesus

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Today is Good Friday, which Jesus Christ was hung on the cross to cleanse our sin. So, let us come before Jesus and humble our hearts as we worship and as we commemorate his love for us.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: The night and day are dark and difficult. This man did not deserve to be hit and spat upon— denied, forsaken, mocked.

All: Crucify him! Crucify him!

One: This is the hardest part of the journey—Jesus betrayed, arrested, brought before the authorities, tried and condemned. Beaten, rejected, a crown of thorns pressed on his brow, and the crowd chants “Crucify him!”

All: Crucify him! Crucify him!

One: Head bowed down, the Lord of life is condemned to die. O Lord, was this for us?

All: God, forgive us for all the ways we have left you and not followed you and your ways.

One: It is finished. The temple veil torn. The world is dark. Silence. Let us pray.

All: God of truth, keep us from being distracted from following you, until the journey is complete, and death is trampled down by death and eternal life is given to all. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Praise song – BOP #235 – Alas, and did my Saviour bleed

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

We come to the foot of your cross, Lord Jesus, and we weep with the disciples.

With Mary, we ponder the mystery of your life and death.

With those who witnessed your love in word and action, we proclaim the truth of who you are.

We come to you this day, because you first came to us.

We come to love you, because you first loved us. We come to serve you, because you first served us. We come to worship, humbled by your love for us, offering our love to you.

God of love and mercy, you sent Christ into the world so that we might have life and have it abundantly. Yet our lives are often less than you would have them be. We do not trust the power of your love. We have filled the world with violence and terror because we cannot trust the way of compassion and service. In the face of uncertainty and trouble, we give up on you and one another. Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be for the sake of Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

This time, we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the God who loves us. Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God's deep love will never let us go.

Prayer for Illumination:

O God, our source of wisdom and understanding, In the midst of distractions around us, still our minds to listen. In the midst of competing voices, let us hear your Word. Among the choices that confront us, help us follow your will for the sake of Jesus, your Son and our Saviour. Amen.

Scripture: John 19:28-30

28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 29 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. 30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

SERMON: It is finished

The title of today's sermon is "It is finished."

Today is the day Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross. Jesus died on this day. Jesus bore our pain and shame. He took all the consequences of our sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21, "For our sake he (God) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him (Jesus) we might become the righteousness of God."

God put the wrong on Jesus who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God. That is how our faith is in Christ. This is the reason why we say that Jesus is the only way to God.

Thinking of the life of Jesus as a man who lived in our human history, what kind of end is this? Is this a glorious and victorious ending? Did Jesus know that God would raise him up in three days? I don't know about that. Jesus cried out to God, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)** If Jesus knew that he only needed to endure for three days, if he knew that God would make everything right, then would Jesus cry out to God that desperately? We cannot find any hope when Jesus cried this out to God. How much did Jesus know about this plan? Father God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are one. But, Jesus seems like, he does not know what is going on, but he showed hopelessness before his death. Jesus might not think that he would be raised to life again. He might think that he would embrace his own death and give life to all people.

"he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (V30)

This is the moment of the unity of the Holy Trinity was broken. Father God had to watch his one and only Son Jesus Christ die on the cross. If our loved one is sick, how would you feel? Our hearts are breaking. We would volunteer to take all the pain from our loved one and say, "I will be sick instead. Give me pain and take away pain from my love."

God the Father would feel the same way. But, for the sake of the love for us, he had to make his one and only Son Jesus hung on the cross. He had to abandon his Son when he cried out to him on the cross with pain and shame. This is how much our God loves each one of us.

Jesus said, "it is finished." What is finished?

Jesus finished his work. He completed his mission. He accomplished the purposes of his life.

Then, what is his life's mission?

It's from Luke 4, v18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Jesus did all these. We are the poor. We are the captives. We are the blind. We are the oppressed. Jesus brought us good news. Jesus proclaimed release. Jesus recovered our sight. Jesus freed us. By his own death. By his own death, he accomplished his mission. This is why he said, "IT IS FINISHED."

So what happened to us?

The pathway to God was wide open to us. God is holy and we are not. So, we are not able to be with God. Because God is holy. He is sinless, he cannot be with sin. He is love, but at the same time, he is Just. So, sinners like us cannot come to God with our sin. Because we will die because of God's justice. So, Jesus took all our sin and died for our sin as our sacrifice. In Old Testaments, we bring an animal and we place our hands on the animal's head. Then, the priest prays to transfer our sins upon the animal. **"The sin of the people be upon you."** Then, we kill the animal as the consequence of our sin. Jesus was the substitute for the sacrificial animal for our sin. But, because Jesus is God, once and for all, he died and took all humans' sin. We don't have to kill animals any longer because of Jesus.

Through Jesus, our pathway to God was opened. We became clean before the eyes of God. We say we became righteous. God's justice was satisfied. The broken relationship with God was

restored. We became the heir of the kingdom of God. We are no longer sinners through the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Jesus, on the cross, did not beg for his life. He took his death. Why? Because he knew that we are going to have life through his own death.

In the movie The Passion of Christ, when Jesus died on the cross, one single raindrop came from heaven. It is like describing the tear of God for losing his own son.

Father God gave up his own Son. The Son God Jesus gave up his own life.
That is how we are here and this is how much love we have.

Today is Good Friday. Jesus died. Father lost his Son. Why do we call it good?
It seems like sad day, it seems like failure, it seems like bad. But, the death of Jesus is not the end, but it is the beginning of good. It is the beginning of life. It is the beginning of hope.

The hopeless death of Jesus is the death breaking Death. It is the death bringing hope and life to us. That is why all our pain and shame and suffering and difficulties are finished in Jesus on this GOOD FRIDAY.

Let us pray.

“It is finished,” it was the last word of Jesus on the cross. Thank you for dying for us on the cross. Thank you for making us clean and satisfying God’s justice by washing us with your blood. Father God, thank you and we are sorry that you had to watch your Son dying on the cross. We are sorry that you had to abandon you only Son for the sake of the love for us. We come to you with humble and grateful hearts. Please receive our sincere worship and praise. You are an amazing God and you are the only God we will worship and honour all through our lives. We want to lift your name on high.

We pray for our church family. By the spread of vaccine, we are hoping to get back. We are too sure what it would be, but we are hopeful. Help us be back together and worship you together here in the same space.

Also, we pray for the people who are falling away from you. As they think of you, as they remember you, stir their spirits and turn their eyes to you again with your great love.

And we thank you and praise you for all the people in our church to stand in faith faithfully and sincerely. Hold their hands and lead their lives with your love.

On this Good Friday, fill our hearts with your love and hope for your Kingdom.

In Jesus’ precious and beautiful and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn BOP #238 – Beneath the cross of Jesus

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Jesus Christ surrendered his life for us. Jesus Christ took all our pain and shame. It looks sad and it looks failure. But, Jesus took the cross to give us life. This is the life giving sacrifice of our Jesus. Let us have hope in Jesus.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.