

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Friday, March 29th, 2024
Rev. Gerry Gallant

The Price
Good Friday
Mark 15:16-47

Welcome

Call to Worship

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
**Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we account 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.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

O Christ, who forsook no one
but was forsaken by the closest of friends,
and who committed no crime yet was sentenced to a criminal's death,
we enter your presence in awe and adoration.
On this day, centuries ago, you could have saved your life,
but you refused to betray the purpose for which you had been born.
You had come into the world to love God and neighbor as yourself,
and when that love required you to shoulder a cross,
you summoned the strength to bear it.
Today, O Christ, as we sing and pray about the cross,
teach us its meaning once again
and help us to take up our cross and follow you. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn #230: "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Go to dark Gethsemane, you that feel the tempter's power:
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
From his grief turn not away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall; see him beaten, bound, arraigned;
 Patiently he bears it all, all our pain his souls sustained.
 Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn of Christ to bear the
 cross.

Climb to Calvary's mournful site; there the Lord of glory reigns;
 There, through weakness, wins the fight, over sin our victory
 gains.
 It is finished! Hear him cry; there, in Christ, we dare to die.

Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!
 Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
 we meet each other today at the foot of the cross,
 as inhabitants of one world.
 We wait with each other as those who inflict wounds on one another:
be merciful to us.
 As those who deny justice to others:
be merciful to us.
 As those who put our trust in power:
be merciful to us.
 As those who are greedy:
be merciful to us.
 As those who put others on trial:
be merciful to us.
 As those who refuse to receive:
be merciful to us.
 As those who are afraid of the world's torment:
be merciful to us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
 so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;
 by his wounds you have been healed.

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.

Music Ministry: “The One On the Tree”

Prayer for illumination
(Congregant Prepared)

Scripture

Mark 15:16-47

Jesus Is Mocked

¹⁶And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

²¹And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²²And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

The Death of Jesus

³³And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” ³⁶And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying,

“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.⁴¹ When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

Jesus Is Buried

⁴² And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath,⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead.⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Sermon

Picture the scene of Good Friday in your mind. The Sinless Son of God hangs upon a wooden cross, rusty spikes driven through His hands and feet. A crown of thorns pressed into his head; the flesh of his back torn apart by the scourging He had endured prior to carrying his cross to Calvary. He hangs there, clinging to life in terrible agony, suffering for nothing that he himself has done, instead he hangs there suffering for the sins of others, for the sins of you and me.

At high noon the sky turns black. Jesus cries out in anguish, ‘My God, my God why have you forsaken me?’ Finally, as death approaches, He simply says, ‘Father, into your hand I commit my spirit.’

And then, ‘it is finished.’ With those words the Lamb of God takes His last breath, as he dies, an earthquake rumbles across the land. The Veil in the Temple is torn in two from top to bottom.

Satan and his minions rejoice, filled with delight at the defeat of their enemy, and Jesus’s faithful followers weep and mourn. However, their victory will be short lived, in just three days the Lion of Judah will leave the tomb.

Christians all around the world will celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord in just three days, however, to fully grasp what occurred on the Day of Resurrection we need to better understand what happened in the week leading up to His Resurrection.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus made a triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Large crowds were gathered along the road spreading out palm branches and their own clothing on the road before him, crying out, 'Hosana, blessed is HE who comes in the name of the Lord.' As he entered into the city, 'Jesus wept.' He wept for the people, knowing their nature even better than they knew it themselves.

On Monday he enters the temple and flips the tables of the money changers and drives the animals out of the courtyard of the temple before he leaves the city and spends the night in Bethany.

On Tuesday He gives the Olivet Discourse, he teaches His disciples about the coming persecution that will come as well as the times of tribulation and the eventual end of times. It is also on Tuesday that Judas begins to conspire with the Sanhedrin to betray the Lord.

The Gospels are silent about what occurred on Wednesday; however, the events of Thursday are perhaps the best-known events of the Scriptures.

Jesus and the disciples celebrate the Passover. It is at this meal that we see Jesus take on the role of a servant and wash the feet of His disciples. We see him give us direction in the Sacrament of Communion, a way to remember and celebrate him in our lives.

In the evening, they go to the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prays, and a band of soldiers arrive. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss. Our Lord is arrested and taken to be questioned.

Mark 15:1-5

15 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Somewhere around 6 a.m. Jesus is brought before Pontus Pilate. Pilate asks him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answers him, 'You have said so.' The chief priests accuse him of many things, but He does not respond to their accusations. Pilate asks Jesus why he refuses to respond to the charges and accusations of the chief priests. Yet Jesus said no more.

When Pilate learned that Jesus was a Galilean, he saw a way out of his predicament. The Galileans were under the jurisdiction of Herod and Herod just happened to be in Jerusalem at the time. So, he sent him off to be judged by Herod.

Around 7 a.m. Jesus is in Herod's presence. Herod questions Jesus in the same manner that Pilate did, the chief priests continue to voice their anger and their accusations. Jesus still remains silent. Herod finally gives up and decides that he will send Jesus back to Pilate for judgement, but not before he does one other thing first.

Luke 23:11

And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.

When Jesus was returned to Pilate.

Mark 15:12-15

¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Where he was sentenced, the crowd that was gathered called out for Pilate to 'crucify him!' Pilate even though he could find no fault, and nor reason to sentence Jesus gave into the will of the crowd.

Before he is lead to the cross, Pilate has him scourged. A brutal and painful form of torture, Jesus would have been stripped and tied to a wooden pole. Whipped with a Roman device called a 'flagrum', a wooden handled whip that had multiple leather straps, at the end of each of the straps there were pieces of bone, metal and even hooks meant to tear apart the flesh of the target. Jesus was whipped repeatedly, and chunks and strips of flesh would have been torn out of his back, many men died during the scourging, yet our Lord endured this torture, not because he deserved it, but for our salvation from sin.

When the scourging was finished, it would have been just past 8 a.m. He has been up all night, suffering false accusations, being hurried from one place to another, he has been beaten, mocked, and rejected by everyone who has looked upon him since he left the garden of Gethsemane. He is battered and bruised, his back is torn apart and bleeding. The men who are guarding him have not had enough yet, they drape a purple robe over his shoulders, they place a crown of thorns upon his head, they place a reed in his hands and mockingly bow before him, calling him, 'The king of the Jews.'

It is here in this time of incredible suffering and agony, that they hand him the cross that he is to carry up to Golgotha. The weight is close to 150 pounds, and it needs to be carried close to

240 meters. They place the rough wooden cross upon his shoulders and begin to mock him as he struggles to carry it to the place of his death.

Mark 15:21-22

²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull).

Simon of Cyrene, is forced to assist Jesus in bearing the weight of the cross up to the hilltop of Golgotha and they arrive about 9 a.m.

Mark 15:23-26

²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

On the hilltop of Calvary, Jesus is stripped, laid down upon the cross. The spikes that were used for the crucifixion were approximately 12 cm long and 1 cm wide. They are driven through his wrists and his feet. The cross is lifted from the ground and dropped into the hole in which it stands, as the cross is dropped into the hole, the flesh is torn by the jolt. His body is nailed to the cross in such a way that it is very difficult to even breathe. Every breath, every time he inhales and exhales the pain of the scourging and beatings flow through his entire body. Jesus is exhausted, weak, and dehydrated as he continues to bleed from his wounds upon the cross.

Yet even here, in the midst of all this pain and suffering, Jesus is focused on the Salvation of others, even the salvation of the very people who were in the process of killing him.

Luke 23:34

³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Those gathered at the foot of the cross could not understand the beauty of the forgiveness that was being proclaimed upon them. While Jesus is praying for their salvation, they are dividing up his possessions.

Jesus hangs there upon the cross, and the mocking and ridicule continues.

Matthew 27:38-44

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and

elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Passers by mock him, the chief priests come by and mock him, the guards at the foot of the cross mock him.

However around 11 a.m. there is a shift in one of the men who is hanging upon the cross beside the Lord.

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

This thief, this sinner, this man who had joined in on the mocking and ridicule of Jesus Christ even as he himself hung on the cross beside him, came to the realization that Jesus was in fact His Lord, and in that moment all of the sins of his life were forgiven, and he received salvation from the lips of Jesus Christ himself.

Then the sixth hour came.

Mark 15:33

³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

From 9 am until noon the Lord Jesus Christ was upon the cross, being mocked and ridiculed by man. At noon, the sixth hour, darkness fell across the land for 3 hours. A darkness that was even darker than night, a supernatural darkness that fulfilled another of the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Amos 8:9

⁹ “And on that day,” declares the Lord GOD,
 “I will make the sun go down at noon
 and darken the earth in broad daylight.

Amos's warning had been of the coming judgement of God against the sinful nation of Israel. Throughout the Bible, darkness is often associated with the judgement of God. When the darkness fell upon the land that day, God was signaling that Judgement was at hand.

The darkness of a sinful world was let loose upon Jesus; the curse of sin fully placed upon his shoulders. That absolute darkness lasted 3 hours and in that time Jesus, the lamb of God, our holy and sinless Saviour, literally became our sin upon that cross, for our salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Remember that Jesus knew all of this was coming for him from the moment he came. He knew that he would suffer all of the pain, torture, and humiliation. He knew that he would hang upon the cross and bear the weight of all of our sin, but his love for us is so great he did so willingly, so that we could be saved.

Matthew 27:46

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

About 3 p.m. Jesus cried out for God, and shortly after he cried of his thirst.

John 19:28-30

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Luke adds.

Luke 23:46

⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

The Gospels tell us that as he breathed out his last breath, there was a great earthquake, rocks were split, and that the bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. We are also told that the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom.

This veil being torn is important, it symbolized the change in the way we approach God, no longer were we separated by the veil, we now had direct access to God.

There were many people who witnessed the event that took place that day at Calvary. There were those who walked by, those who mocked the Lord, the thieves upon the cross and the

gathered crowd of mourners. There were many people who experienced the unexplainable events that occurred in the darkness of the day. Yet many of them still would not believe that the man they had placed upon the cross was in fact the Son of God.

Yet there was one man who stood at the cross that day that was convinced Jesus was the Son of God.

Luke 23:47

⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

Finally, the time came to break the legs of those who had been crucified that day. This was the way that they ensured the crucified were dead before they took them down from the cross. A broken femur was a guaranteed death sentence in Jesus's time, especially when it came at the end of all of the other suffering that those upon the cross had already endured.

It was especially important on that day because, **'it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath'** and they could not have bodies hanging upon the cross for the Sabbath.

So, a guard came out with a large metal bar and broke the legs of the two men hanging alongside Jesus on the cross. However, when they came to Christ's body, they saw that he was already dead and instead used a spear to pierce his side and into his heart. When they did this, they saw blood and water come out. Again, this fulfilled prophecy that not one of his bones would be broken.

This is when Joseph of Arimathea stepped forward and went to Pilate to request that the body of Jesus be given to him for burial. Which he was granted, and the body of the Lord was taken down from the cross and given to him. It was wound in linen clothes with spices and brought to a nearby tomb where it was laid to rest. A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to prevent animals from desecrating the body in the tomb.

Just a little spoiler, this is not the end of the story, but this is a critical juncture that we all need to understand.

Jesus endured all of this for us. He loved each of us enough that he willingly went through every event that occurred in his final hours for your Salvation. God made it abundantly clear that Jesus's sacrifice upon the cross was sufficient to save all who come to him from their sins. His sacrifice upon the cross was sufficient for all the sins of mankind, he was the final sacrifice replacing the sacrifices that had been required under the covenant of the Old Testament.

As John the Baptist said, 'Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'

Our salvation is possible today only because of the precious blood of Jesus Christ that was shed that day. The blood that was shed as a sinless Sacrifice on the cross at Calvary.

The book of Revelation tells us that Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and the ruler of kings on earth and that he loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

This is the good news of Good Friday. The blood of Jesus Christ has the power to take the most hate filled, sinful, blackest heart and make it whiter than snow.

His blood was shed for our sin, so that we could share in his kingdom for all of eternity. The only thing required is that we trust and obey the Lord. That we come before him in humility and confess our sinful nature, that we repent and follow his teaching in our lives, that we surrender to him as Lord.

Good Friday is good because our God offers everyone eternal life. There are no minimum requirements in social standing, or wealth or power. There is nothing from this world that is required. The only thing that people need to do is accept the offer. And yes, there will always be people who reject that offer because they love the things of this world, they love their power, wealth, and pleasure. Yet there will come a time when they too bow before God and recognize he is Lord on the day of Judgement.

So, make today the day that you remember the meaning of the sacrifice upon the cross, and give your life fully to God, knowing that his blood bought your Salvation. And may we never forget that sacrifice as we walk as the Salt and Light of God's Word in this world.

Let us pray,

May We Never Be Forsaken

O Christ our Lord,
 from your cross
 you cried out
 as one forsaken by the Father,
 and by your death
 you redeemed humanity
 which was lost through sin.
 We humbly pray,
 that we may truly believe
 that we will never be forsaken by you,
 and that our trust
 in your eternal power and Godhead
 may always be steadfast.
 Graciously hear our prayers,
 and make us to serve you always
 according to your good will and pleasure.

Source: Mozarabic. Freely modified from The Revised Prayer-Book of the Reformed Spanish Church, 1889

Hymn #235: "Alas, and Did My Saviour Bleed"

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
 and did my Sovereign die!
 Would he devote that sacred head
 for sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I have done,
 he groaned upon the tree?
 Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
 And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
 and shut its glories in,
 when Christ, the great redeemer, died
 for fallen creature's sin.

Invitation to Offering**Offering****Offertory Prayer****(Congregant Prepared)****Closing Hymn #238: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

Beneath the cross of Jesus
 I fain would take my stand,
 The shadow of a mighty Rock
 Within a weary land;
 A home within the wilderness,
 A rest upon the way,
 From the burning of the noontide heat,
 And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus
 Mine eyes at times can see
 The very dying form of One,
 Who suffered there for me;
 And from my stricken heart, with tears,
 Two wonders I confess,
 The wonders of redeeming love,
 And my own unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
 For my abiding place;
 I ask no other sunshine than
 The sunshine of His face;
 Content to let the world go by,
 To know no gain nor loss,
 My sinful self my only shame,
 My glory all the cross.

Pastoral Prayer

Dear people of God,
 God sent Jesus into the world,
 not to condemn the world,
 but that the world through him might be saved,
 that all who believe in him
 might be delivered from the power of sin and death
 and become heirs with him of eternal life.
 Let us pray for the one holy catholic
 and apostolic church of Christ throughout the world:
 for its unity in witness and service,
 for all church leaders and ministers
 and the people whom they serve,
 for all the people of this presbytery,
 for all Christians in this community,
 for those about to declare their faith in Christ
 that God will confirm the church in faith,
 increase it in love,
 and preserve it in peace.

Eternal God,
 by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people
 is governed and sanctified.
 Receive our prayers,
 which we offer before you
 for all members of your holy church,
 that in our vocation and ministry
 we 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,
and for those in authority among them:
for the prime minister,
for the legislative bodies and the courts,
for the leaders and representatives of the all nations,
for all who serve the common good,
that by God's help
they may seek justice and truth,
and live in peace and concord.

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 justice and peace 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 homeless,
the destitute and the oppressed,
and all who suffer persecution, doubt, and despair;
for the sorrowful and bereaved;
for prisoners and captives
and those in mortal danger;
that God will comfort and relieve them
and grant them the knowledge of God's love,
and stir up in us the will and patience
to minister to their needs.

Gracious God,
the comfort of all who sorrow,
the strength of all who suffer,
hear the cry of those in misery and need.
In their afflictions show them your mercy,
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 all who have not heard the words of salvation,

for all who have lost their faith,
for all whose sin has made them indifferent to Christ,
for all who actively oppose Christ by word or deed,
for all who are enemies of the cross of Christ
and persecutors of his disciples,
for all 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.

Merciful God,
creator of 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 departed this life
and 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.

Eternal God of unchanging power and light,
look with mercy on your whole church.
Bring to completion your saving work
so that the whole world may see
the fallen lifted up,
the old made new,
and all things brought to perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Benediction

Do not hurry away from the cross today.
Linger near
to survey,
to stand,
to ponder our Savior's suffering and death.
Consider, carefully and well,
the preciousness of his sacrifice for you,
the greatness of his mercy toward you.
Then depart from Golgotha confidently,
knowing that the Spirit
will keep you in your crucified Savior's strong embrace
and prompt you to trust and obey him always.
The God of peace will go with you all. **Amen.**