



# Good Friday Prayer Service

**April 2, 2021 at noon  
on Facebook **Live****

**or on our church website  
at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

*Good Friday is a day of contradictions. Now is the “acceptable time” of which Paul spoke in 2 Corinthians 6:2. We are always dying and rising to new life, but especially on this day. We are all the actors in this story: the people shouting “Crucify him!” and the women who stand vigil at the foot of the cross, the soldiers who cast lots for his tunic and Joseph of Arimathea who gave his own tomb for Jesus’ burial. Today we lament the pain of this world and we face our complicity in that pain; we seek to be witnesses to - and participants in - God’s power over the evil of this world. Now is the acceptable time – the time when Christ’s death sets us free to choose life.*

## Opening Words

On this Good Friday, we contemplate the good news of the cross: how Christ our Lord stretched out his arms to embrace a world of suffering and sin; how Christ our Lord stretched out his arms to save us.

Musical Reflection

Schönster Herr Jesu

Hermann Schroeder

## Call to Worship

Beside the gate, a woman asked Simon Peter if he was a disciple of Jesus.

**He said, “I am not.”**

Later they asked him again, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?”

**Peter denied it and said, “I am not.”**

Then one of the slaves of the high priest asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?”

**Again, Peter denied it.**

*Ring bell three times.*

## Call to Confession

Since we have a high priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses, who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet is without sin,

**let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, and find grace to help in time of need.**

## Prayer of Confession

Christ Jesus was despised and rejected.

**We thought nothing of him.**

He was oppressed and afflicted.

**We hid our faces from him.**

He bore our sickness and sin.

**We believed God was punishing him.**

We, like sheep, have gone astray.

**Yet he, like a lamb, was led to the slaughter.**

## *Silent confession*

Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God, grant us peace. Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

This is the new covenant I make with you, says the Lord. I will put my law in your hearts: I will remember your sin no more. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, as we bow our heads beneath the cross pour out your Holy Spirit upon us to testify to the truth so that we may believe; this we pray through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 53:4-9, 11

4 Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

5 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.

6 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.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

8 By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

9 They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

11 Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Musical Reflection

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Giuseppe Verdi

The Second Lesson

Psalm 22:1-5, 11, 16-18, 25-26, 30-31

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

4 In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

5 To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

16 For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;

17 I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;

18 they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who revere him.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

The Third Lesson

Selected Verses from John 18 and 19

1 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

3 So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4 Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"

5 They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

6 When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground.

7 Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go."

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

11 Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

12 So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

13 First they took him to Annas, the high priest that year.

15 Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus.

28 Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters.

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

34 Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

38 Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him."

39 But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

40 They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

2 And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.

3 They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

4 Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him."

5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

6 When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him."

7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

13 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha.

14 Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!"

15 They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."

16 Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus;

17 and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

19 Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Musical Reflection

Crucifixus

S. Karg-Elert

23 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.

24 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."

25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary, and Mary Magdalene.

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.

38 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.

39 Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

40 They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

41 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.

42 And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### Prayers of Intercession

In his journey on earth, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the One who was able to save him from death. Now we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, in whose name we pray:

We pray for all who are despised and rejected, suffering and wounded, oppressed and afflicted.

*Silence*

We pray for all who feel forsaken, crying out by day and night: Where is my God?

*Silence*

We pray for those who are mocked and scorned, the subjects of insult and injury.

*Silence*

We pray for all who hunger and thirst, whose mouths are dry, whose bodies waste away.

*Silence*

We pray for all who face the end of life, who lie in the dust of the earth.

*Silence*

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, source of all healing and endless life. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Jesus said, "It is finished."

*All depart in silence.*

**Easter Sunday, April 4**

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary

10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live  
with Communion

1:00 pm First Sunday Food Collection

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.  
Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard, Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley.



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