



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Le Sueur, Minnesota**  
**April 2, 2021**

**GATHERING MUSIC**     *My God, My God (Psalm 22)*     *Marty Haugen, David Hass*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEM4\\_67p2Bg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEM4_67p2Bg)

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me, they curl their lips, they toss their hands,  
He trusted in the Lord, Let him save him, Let him release him,  
for in him he delights. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

For dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked besets me,  
their tear holes in my hands and my feet, I can count every one of my bones.  
My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.  
But you, O Lord, do not stay a far off, my strength, make haste to help me.  
My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will tell of your name to my kin and praise you in the midst of the assembly.  
You who feel the Lord give him praise all descendants of Jacob give him glory.  
My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

## GREETINGS

### INVOCATION (unison)

**Gracious God, your love is a light in our darkness, vulnerable, yet unquenchable. We would stand with Christ, in the midst of the horrors of this world where betrayal and death constantly threaten your love and peace.**

**Hymn**     *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*                     *Selah*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKXmHzkttLc>

O sacred head now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:  
How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn

What Thou my lord has suffered was all for sinners' gain  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior, 'tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow, To thank Thee dearest friend;  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever; And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

### Silence

### Reflection

One: It is Friday - And I stand at the foot of the cross.

**All: Nothing can be said, nothing can be done. Action is futile. I can hold the other's hands and weep, but I cannot be comforted.**

One: It is Friday - And I stand at the foot of the cross. The air is heavy still with waiting and longing.  
Waiting for the inevitable, longing for the impossible. Can this cup pass from me?

### Jesus Delivered to be Crucified     Luke 23:13-25

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him." Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him."

But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

## HYMN

### *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD6tcMroY0A>

Go to dark Gethsemane, Ye that feel the tempter's power.  
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour  
Turn not from His griefs away, learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of Life arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall, O the pains his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame or loss, learn of Him to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain climb, there adoring at His feet  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete,  
It is finished, hear the cry, learn of Jesus Christ to die.

## Silence

### Reflection -

**One:** It is Friday – And I stand at the foot of the cross. I look around me – all the colors are muted. Dusty browns and grays – Cold and metallic. Rolling black clouds cover the brilliant blue of the sky

**All:** **It is Friday - And I stand at the foot of the cross. My soul is occluded by pain. All that remains is the red of the blood running down the weathered wood of the cross.**

### **The Crucifixion** Luke 23:26-43

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup>But Jesus turned to them and said,

"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

## Hymn

*Were You There?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5LoJzYUoHY>

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

## Silence

### Reflection -

**One:** It is Friday - And I stand at the foot of the cross. I reach out and touch the raised grain of the wood. It is rough against my fingertips. The pong of unwashed wool and bodies crowds my nose. I smell fear, pain, death. I taste it at the back of my throat. I hear the labored breathing from the cross. Death is near.

**All:** **It is Friday - And I stand at the foot of the cross. Remember Him! Remember Him as the dust returns to the ground it came from and His spirit returns to the God who gave it.**

## Death and Burial

Luke 23:44-56

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

## Silence

### Reflection -

**One:** It is Friday- And I stand at the foot of the cross.

**All:** **It is Friday- And I stand at the foot of the cross**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Before Your Cross, O Jesus*

*Brian Braun*

Before your cross, O Jesus, our lives are judged today;  
the meaning of our eager strive is tested by your way.  
Across our restless living the light streams from your cross,  
and by its clear, revealing beams we measure gain and loss.

The hopes that lead us onward, the fears that hold us back,  
our will to dare great things for God, the courage that we lack,  
The faith we keep in goodness, our love, as low or pure,  
on all, the judgment of the cross falls steady, clear and sure.

Yet humbly, in our striving, we rise to face its test.  
We crave the power to do your will as once you did it best.  
On us let now the healing of your great spirit fall,  
and make us brave and full of joy to answer to your call.