

+ Good Friday Service of Shadows and Stones April 2, 2021

St. Andrew Lutheran Church 304 Morewood Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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+ Good Friday Order for Worship

Life and death stand side by side as we observe Good Friday.

Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is sentenced to death on the cross.

We join the disciples at the foot of the cross, praying for the whole world,
as Christ offers life to all. We carry stones with us as we pray. They may symbolize the hurtful
words we have hurled at others, the things we have done or not done. They may remind us of our
judgmental, self-centered ways. They may represent the burdens that we carry, the weight of the
guilt and grief we bear, or those aspects of ourselves that we hide away in the darkness. We will
leave these stones behind at the foot of the cross, giving thanks that God lifts the weight of these
stones as Jesus is lifted up on the tree. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the
promise that the tree around which we assemble is the tree of life. We depart in silence,
and anticipate the culmination of the great Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

Lament – Based on Lamentations 1: 12

P: All you who pass this way,

C: Look and see, the shadow of sin.

P: All you who pass this way,

C: Look and see the weight of the world.

P: All you who pass this way,

C: Look and see the suffering of our Savior.

P: All you who pass this way,

C: Look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ.

P: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Reading – Luke 23: 35-43

³⁵And 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!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God,

since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Silence

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation,

a world that is not at peace, people who are not whole.

You reached out to the man on the cross and welcomed him to God's side.

Come alongside us in the darkness, and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken.

C: Amen.

Hymn

Jesus, Remember Me

ELW 616





Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Reading – John 19: 25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Silence

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Loving Jesus, we carry the weight of concern for the people we love, their troubles, their sorrows and suffering.

Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do.

Come alongside us in the darkness, and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.

C: Amen.

Reading – Mark 15: 26-34

²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Silence

Prayer

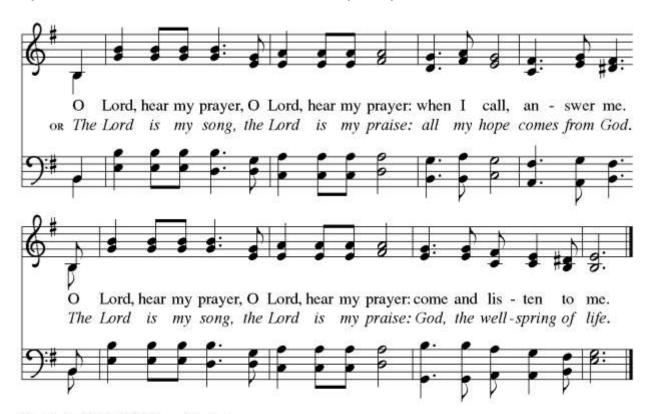
P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you know what it is to feel that God is far away.

You know what it is to call out for God's presence.

Come alongside us in the darkness, and help us call out for God in our every need.

C: Amen.



Text: Psalm 102:1–2; Taizé Community, adapt.
Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Reading – Luke 23: 44-49

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Silence

Prayer

Let us pray.

Dearest Jesus, even in death, you are there.

When we mourn, when we are afraid,

when we come to our own end, you are there, too.

Come alongside us in the darkness, and carry us through death to life.

C: Amen.

Hymn

Father, into Your Hands



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Please rise as you are able and face the processional cross.

Procession of the Cross

As the presiding minister carries the cross forward, the procession will pause three times for the following words

P: Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship.

Adoration of the Cross

Those in the sanctuary are invited to come forward to express your love for Jesus and to leave your stone at the foot of the cross.

During the adoration and placing of stones, the Solemn Reproaches are spoken, each followed by the Trisagion ("Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us").

When all have returned to their places, worship concludes:

P: We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Please depart in silence.

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

C: Congregation

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

Those serving in worship today

Piano Solemn Reproaches and Trisagion Director of Faith Formation Presiding Minister Jeff Denlinger Dixie and John Tymitz Christopher Atwood Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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