

## Good Friday Service

*The service is entirely spoken; there is no music at all.*

*People gather in silence.*

*The church has been stripped of all movable ornamentation at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service.*

*Lighting is subdued, but adequate for the people to participate in Scripture readings, litanies, and prayers. As the service ends, all lighting that is not essential to exiting the church safely is extinguished, so that the service ends in near darkness.*

*The times of silence are a significant part of the service, and should be long enough to create a mood of reflection and introspection. No part of the service should feel rushed.*

### Call to Worship

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

**Surely, he has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,

**And with his stripes we are healed.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Litany for Good Friday*

O Crucified Jesus,  
Son of the Father,  
conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
eternal Word of God,  
**we worship you.**

O crucified Jesus, holy temple of God,  
dwelling place of the Most High,  
gate of heaven, burning flame of love,  
**we worship you.**

O crucified Jesus,  
sanctuary of justice and love,  
full of kindness, source of faithfulness,  
**we worship you.**

O crucified Jesus, ruler of every heart,  
in you are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,  
in you dwells all the fullness of the Godhead,  
**we worship you.**

*After a brief silence, the leader concludes the litany.*

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed  
and to be given over to the hands of sinners  
and to suffer death on the cross;  
who now lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*First Lesson*

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

*Second Lesson*

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

*A time of silence is kept, followed by the congregation praying The Lord's Prayer in unison.*

*Solemn Reproaches of the Cross*

O my people, O my church,  
What have I done to you,  
or in what have I offended you?  
Answer me.

I led you forth from the land of Egypt  
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

I led you through the desert forty years  
and fed you with manna:  
I brought you through tribulation and penitence  
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

What more could I have done for you  
that I have not done?  
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,  
I made you branches of my vine;  
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink  
and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,  
and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate.  
I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom,  
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.  
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,  
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

I gave you a royal sceptre  
and bestowed the keys of the kingdom,  
but you have given me a crown of thorns.  
I raised you on high with great power,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,  
and washed your feet as a sign of my love,  
but you draw the sword to strike in my name  
and seek high places in my kingdom.  
I offered you my body and blood,  
but you scatter and deny and abandon me,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,  
and you close your hearts to the Counselor.  
I pray that all may be one in the Father and me,  
but you continue to quarrel and divide.  
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,  
but you cast lots for my clothing,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel,  
and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder.  
I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants,  
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters;  
I was hungry and you gave me no food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,  
naked and you did not clothe me,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,  
and you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*As these words are spoken, all lights not necessary for exiting the sanctuary safely are gradually extinguished.*

*The People Depart in Silence*

*[The service continues on Easter Sunday morning.]*

*This service is adapted from the traditional service of Grace Presbyterian Church, Madison, Alabama.*