

Good Friday Service
The Hour Has Come
March 29, 2024

Welcome this evening to our Good Friday service.

Solemn night ☒ recognize what was necessary ☒ Crucified 2000 for our sins

It is a solemn night tonight as we recognize what was necessary to take place when our Lord was crucified on the cross 2000 years ago as a payment for our sins.

Good Friday ☒ Heart sinks

When I think of Good Friday my heart sinks.

That day ☒ Darkness fell ☒ seemed as if evil triumphed

On that day that darkness fell it seemed as if evil had triumphed.

Shoes of the disciples

When reading scripture, I often try and put myself in the shoes of the disciples.

Walked w/ a celebrity ☒ now hung on the cross like a criminal

They were once walking with someone who felt like a celebrity who now hung on the cross as a criminal.

Imagine people stopping disciples ☒ Are you with Jesus? ☒ Proud to answer they were

I imagine people probably would stop the disciples from time to time asking if they were with Jesus and how proud they were to answer that they were.

Now as he hung on the cross ☒ When people asked ☒ They denied

And now as Jesus hung on the cross and people asked if they were one of them, they denied it.

Days ago people cried Hosanna ☒ God save us ☒ Cries replaced with 'crucify Him!'

It was just days ago that the people cried out 'Hosanna,' a cry for God to save them. Now those same people replaced their cries with the phrase 'crucify Him!'

The hope of the disciples was ☒ lost ☒ excitement gone ☒ Miracles done ☒ Teacher dead

The hope of the disciples was lost. The excitement was gone. The miracles were done, and their teacher was dead.

Good Friday ☒ Solemn day ☒ For disciples ☒ Lived w/ him last 3 years ☒ left hopeless

We recognize Good Friday as a solemn day. For the disciples who lived out Jesus' ministry with him for the last 3 years, this day seemed like a day of lost hope.

Good Friday ☒ Joy ☒ We know how it ends ☒ End of earthly ministry also saving grace

We also recognize Good Friday as a day of Joy because today we know how the story ends. The looming ending to Christ's ministry on earth was also the saving grace that took place on that

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scandalous night that ultimately led to the conquering of the grave on Easter, three days following His death.

How did we arrive here, however? Why did it have to come to a day such as this, so horrible, so wrong for Christ to be abused in the fashion that he did and then die the way that took place?

Well, we know that sin had entered into the world and wreaked havoc of it. Sin found its way into every corner of society, every blameless place in life and it continued to make a mess of it.

Today sin continues to do the same thing to anyone it can get its hands on.

Consider this: People today are always on the watch for factors that may be causing them physical or bodily harm. The foods we eat, polluted air, illnesses that have flared up in our communities or anything else that can aggravate or trigger diseases or infections in us.

Where we can, we avoid things like this that will hurt us. Are our souls any less important that we shouldn't be diligent to avoid sin at all costs?

Our world today celebrates sin and cries out 'crucify Him' to the only one who can save us from the illness that sin is.

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!

It was the sin of mankind that got us to this day in the first place. The only option was to offer the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the cross, ironically, summoned by the very ones who needed a savior from their sins.

1 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Peter reminds us of the pain that took place on the cross that night. Christ suffered for our sins.

The great news is that Christ did this once.

Maybe your favorite college basketball team is still in the NCAA tournament. And if they win the championship game in another week the analysts will almost immediately begin discussing if they have what it takes to do it again next year.

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Good Friday was a singular event that took place to save those who have put their hope and trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. **This event never has to be repeated again.**

Sin is what got us here in the first place. But why did Christ have to die in this manner to save us from our sin?

I want to answer that question in a minute but first I want to take us back to the events that led up to his arrest, then answer this question, and finally read from John 19 as we observe the crucifixion of Christ on Good Friday.

Because tonight is a reflective service as we remember the events that took place on that fateful night, the events had to take place for you and I in order to be gifted salvation, we will close with John 19 followed by a final worship song before we reflectively and silently depart.

Lets Pray!

As you may know the four gospel books in scripture are made up of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each of these books were witness accounts of Jesus' ministry, his life including the events that surround his death and resurrection in which we are observing this week.

The book of Matthew tends to focus in on what Jesus said.
Mark speaks of what Jesus did.
Luke has much to say about what Jesus felt.
John emphasizes who Jesus was.

It isn't particularly often that all 4 Gospels give an account of the same event in Jesus' life but when they do we should take notice of the importance of these events. This is what is known as the harmony of the Gospels.

You may note that all 4 Gospels cover many of the events that take place during Passion week which we are in the midst of tonight.

If you want to turn with me to John 18 we will read the first 11 verses in a moment. John 18 gives us an immediate illustration of Christ protecting believers because of His personal love for them. This chapter is also a one of kind dramatic event in the Gospel records. This chapter sets up the crucifixion that takes place and which we will close with tonight in chapter 19.

John 18:1-11

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas,

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having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Leading up to Passion week ☐ Jesus stated in ☐

Leading up to the Passion week that we first observed last Sunday, Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem triumphally on a donkey Jesus had stated in John 2:4, John 4:21; 23; John 5:25, 28; John 7:6, 8; 30; 8:20 that my hour has not yet come, or that his hour is coming soon.

Monday of Passion week ☐ Hour has come

It wasn't until Monday of Passion week that Jesus first indicated that his hour has come.

John 12:23

²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

John 13:1

Jesus knew His hour had come.

John 17 begins with a statement that Jesus knew his hour had come.

What is this hour?

This is the hour that begins his crucifixion.

To this point ☐ Jesus ☐ verbally but not physically abused

Up to this point Jesus has been verbally criticized but has never been touched physically by his accusers.

Opposers wanted him dead ☐ manhunt ☐ no attempt to capture ☐ Hour not come

Many of his opposers wanted him dead prior to this and there was a manhunt out for him but they had never attempted to capture him because his hour had not yet come.

This day however, is his hour.

Divine appointment ☐ This day ☐ Christ will die

By the divine appointment of God, this will be the day that Jesus dies for the sin of the world.

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Jesus will go through ☐ horrific ☐

What Jesus will go through in chapter 19 will be a horrific segment of agony, pain, anguish, sweating blood, loneliness, betrayal, arrest, injustice, torture, execution by being nailed to a cross.

John wants us to be convinced of one thing, however. Jesus is not a victim.

Surface ☐ this day ☐ darkest of nights ☐ This is God's prophetic plan ☐

On the surface this day may have looked like the darkest of nights but because all of the events that are taking place are prophetically recorded in the Old Testament of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, crucifixion and death this puts the glory of Christ on majestic display.

Glory of Christ ☐ in these moments ☐ shine through ☐

The glory of Christ in these moments shine through the darkest of dark, the ugliest of hatred, the deepest agonizing of pain.

Ch 18 ☐ Satan & evil ☐ God & heaven ☐ same scene ☐ different purposes ☐

It is here in chapter 18 that Satan and evil show up with God and heaven on the same scene for the same man but for drastically different purposes and Christ triumphs in the end.

God ☐ Control of all ☐ things, places, people, circumstances in his ☐

God demonstrates total control of all things, all places, all people in all circumstances in his betrayal, his arrest, his death and his resurrection.

Christ is no victim.

The hour has come.

In one sense it is the worst hour. In another sense it is the best hour.

Satan's plot to kill ☐ God's pre-determined plan

It is not just Satan's plot to kill Jesus, but it is God's pre-determined plan.

To answer question ☐ Why did Christ have to die in this manner? ☐

So to answer the question I posed earlier of why Christ had to die in this manner is because it is a part of God's predestined plan for salvation.

Atrocity of Christ's death ☐ allegorical imagery ☐ ugliness of sin ☐

The atrocity of the manner in which Christ was treated leading up to his death brings allegorical imagery of the ugliness of sin. A simple and quick death doesn't paint the picture of what sin is capable of.

Though sin is powerful, ugly, destructive and painful at its core, God is still the victor in the end.

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Peter says in

Acts 2:22-25

²²“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— ²³this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Why Good Friday?

So why is it we call the day that Christ suffered and died on the cross “Good Friday”?

Good Friday because ☐ Part of God’s plan to save his people from sin

Though the death of Christ on the cross was a terrible and horrific moment in time, this day is called Good Friday because it is all a part of the culminating plan of God to save his people from sin.

So lets go back to verse 1 of John 18.

John 18:1

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

Location ☐ Synoptic Gospels ☐ Garden of Gethsemane ☐ Olive press ☐

This location in the garden is referred to in the synoptic Gospels or Matthew, Mark and Luke as the Garden of Gethsemane which means “olive press”. It was located on the **Mount of Olives just northeast of Jerusalem.**

Private fenced gardens ☐ Jesus and disciples ☐ Permission ☐ solitude, prayer, rest

Many people from Jerusalem had private fenced in gardens in this area where Jesus and his disciples may have had a permission to enter for solitude, prayer and rest.

Brook ☐ Kidron ☐ Flows during heavy rains ☐ dark/murky ☐ associated with ☐

This brook called Kidron runs down the mountain and usually only flows during heavy rains and is known for its darkness or murkiness and this area in the valley is typically associated with **sorrow, judgment and death.**

I want to give you some **symbolism to this first verse.**

Jerusalem ☐ busy ☐ Passover ☐ No room to lodge ☐ Jesus/disciples camped

Jerusalem would have been extremely busy with visitors at this time of year as it was Passover. There wouldn’t have been any room within the temple walls to lodge so most likely Jesus and his disciples probably camped.

Temple ☐ above Valley of Kidron ☐ During Passover ☐ Temple filled w/ lambs

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The temple sat above the Valley of Kidron and during Passover the temple would have been filled with lambs to be sacrificed on the altar.

Temple floors soaked in blood in Channels to drain blood down Mt. of Kidron brook

As the lambs were sacrificed the floors of the temple would have been soaked in blood. Channels were routed in the floors of the temple that would drain the blood outside the walls of the temple, down the mountain and into the Kidron brook.

Each day Jesus taught in temple at night in Garden and Step over Kidron

Each day Jesus would be teaching in the temple and every night retreating to the garden and each time his course would cause him to step over the Kidron ravine that would have been flowing with the blood of these lambs.

On the night of betrayal leading to crucifixion the Lamb of God stepped over Kidron

On this particular night the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world is stepping over the Kidron ravine filled with blood from lambs that cannot take away sin.

Records within decades -250,000 lambs

There are records within decades of this night that a census of lambs being sacrificed that total nearly 250,000 lambs.

John 18:2

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

We see in

Luke 21:37

³⁷ And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet.

If Judas knew his location why go there?

So if Judas knew that Jesus was going to be there why would he go to a bad hideout location?

Well we could say that

1. This was a familiar place for Jesus.
2. This was a place that was quiet where he could retreat from the crowds.
3. This was a place where Jesus probably saw as his home on earth.

Matthew 8:20

²⁰ ...“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

All good reasons for why this location

All these reasons for Christ to go to this location would for sure be true.

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Reason ☐ Hour had come ☐ Judas would find him there

The reason for Christ going to this location was because he knew his hour had come and that Judas would find him there.

Leading up to this point ☐ Jesus didn't successfully dodge because ☐

In the book of John, leading up to this point, when Jesus was dodging his captors it wasn't because he had GPS locaters on his enemy or that they didn't have enough dirt on Jesus yet to arrest him.

The reason hadn't been caught ☐ Wasn't the hour that the Lord ordained

The reason he hadn't been caught up to this point is because it wasn't the hour that the Lord had ordained for Jesus to be caught.

This is the hour.

John 18:3

³ So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Judas ☐ Gathered officials ☐ most likely temple guard

Judas had wrangled up some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees who were most likely members of the temple guard.

A couple hundred to 1,000 officials to arrest Jesus

It was possible that there were anywhere from a couple hundred up 1000 officials there to arrest Jesus.

Clubs, lanterns, torches ☐ Ready to attack if resisted ☐ Ready to track if ran

The officials came with clubs, lanterns and torches ready to attack if Jesus resisted or prepared to track and capture if Jesus decided to run.

John 18:4

⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

Jesus was prepared ☐ Hour had come

Jesus knew what that the hour had come. He was prepared for his arrest and all that was to follow.

I like how the NASB translation states verses 1 & 4.

John 18:1 NASB

When Jesus had spoken these words, He **went forth** with His disciples...

John 18:4 NASB

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⁴ So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth...

Jesus □ Not a victim □ Gave himself up □ Brought disciples □ witness □

Jesus was not a victim he was giving himself up. He brought his disciples with him knowing that this was the hour he would be caught but wanted them to witness **that he wasn't caught but that he voluntarily gave himself up.**

If you recall back in:

John 10:17-18

¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Defining moment □ Greatest series of events ever in the history of the world

This was a defining moment for what would be the greatest series of events ever in the history of the world.

John 18:5-6

⁵ They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

John □ Doesn't record Judas' kiss □ Other gospels do □ First time openly betrayed

The book of John does not record Judas' kiss of greeting as the other three Gospels do but this kiss of betrayal is the first time Judas openly betrayed Jesus which signaled to the officials which one was Jesus.

Satan was fully in control of Judas at this point.

"I am he" □ powerful and bold enough □ Caused guards to draw back □ fall over

Jesus' response of "I am he," was so powerful and bold that it caused them to draw back and fall over like dominos.

This was another demonstration that God was fully in control of the situation.

John 18:7-9

⁷ So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one."

Jesus asked □ 2nd time □ Whom do you seek? □ He wanted a clear confession

Jesus asked them a second time "whom do you seek?" as if to get a confession of their willful decision to arrest him.

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After he gave himself up 2nd time ☐ asked guards to leave his disciples alone

After Jesus gave himself up a second time, he asked the guards to leave his disciples alone.

Normally ☐ someone in his position would not bring in bystanders

Normally, someone in Jesus' position would not bother to even bring in bystanders who may end up as casualties along with them.

Jesus knew ☐ Lives of disciples would be protected ☐ God's provision

Jesus knew however that the lives of the disciples in that moment were prophetically protected. It wasn't that the guards decided to comply with Jesus' request, it was because it was God's provision that they would not be captured.

John 18:10

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

Last ditch effort ☐ To save Jesus ☐ Peter recklessly severs the ear of Malchus

In one last ditch effort, to protect Jesus from being arrested, Peter recklessly pulls out his sword and severs the ear of Malchus, a slave of the high priest.

Recall back to interaction ☐ Jesus and Peter ☐ in Matthew ☐

If you recall back to an interaction between Jesus and Peter in Matthew Jesus was foretelling his death to him and the other disciples:

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

If up to Peter ☐ Jesus would not have gone to cross ☐ Thwarted God's plans

If it were up to Peter, Jesus would not have gone to the cross and God's plan of redemption would have been thwarted.

John 18:11

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

Cup ☐ Suffering, isolation and death ☐ Jesus would endure ☐ atone for sins

The cup means the suffering, isolation and death that Jesus would have to endure in order to atone for the sins of the world.

Symbolism ☐ communion table ☐ remember what Christ has done for us

This is the symbolism that we partake in at the communion table when we remember what Christ has done for us on the cross.

Jesus Delivered to Be Crucified

John 19:1-37

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews[Ⓜ] answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic[Ⓜ] Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour.[Ⓜ] He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic.[Ⓜ] But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

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“They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

The Death of Jesus

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.

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”