

THE SOLEMN REPROACHES

- L: 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.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
- L: 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.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
- L: What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the 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.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
- L: 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.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
- L: I gave you a royal scepter, 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.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
- L: 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

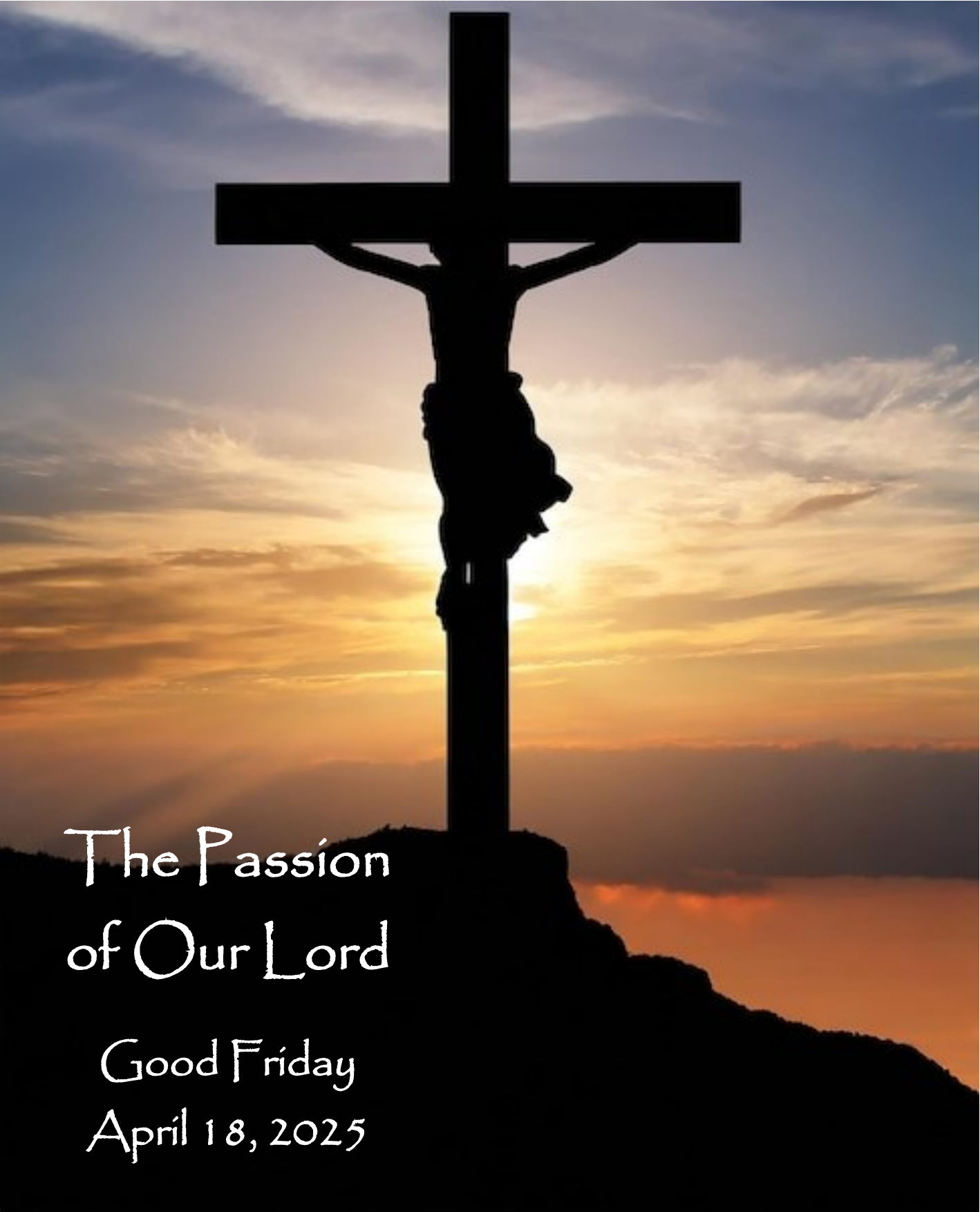
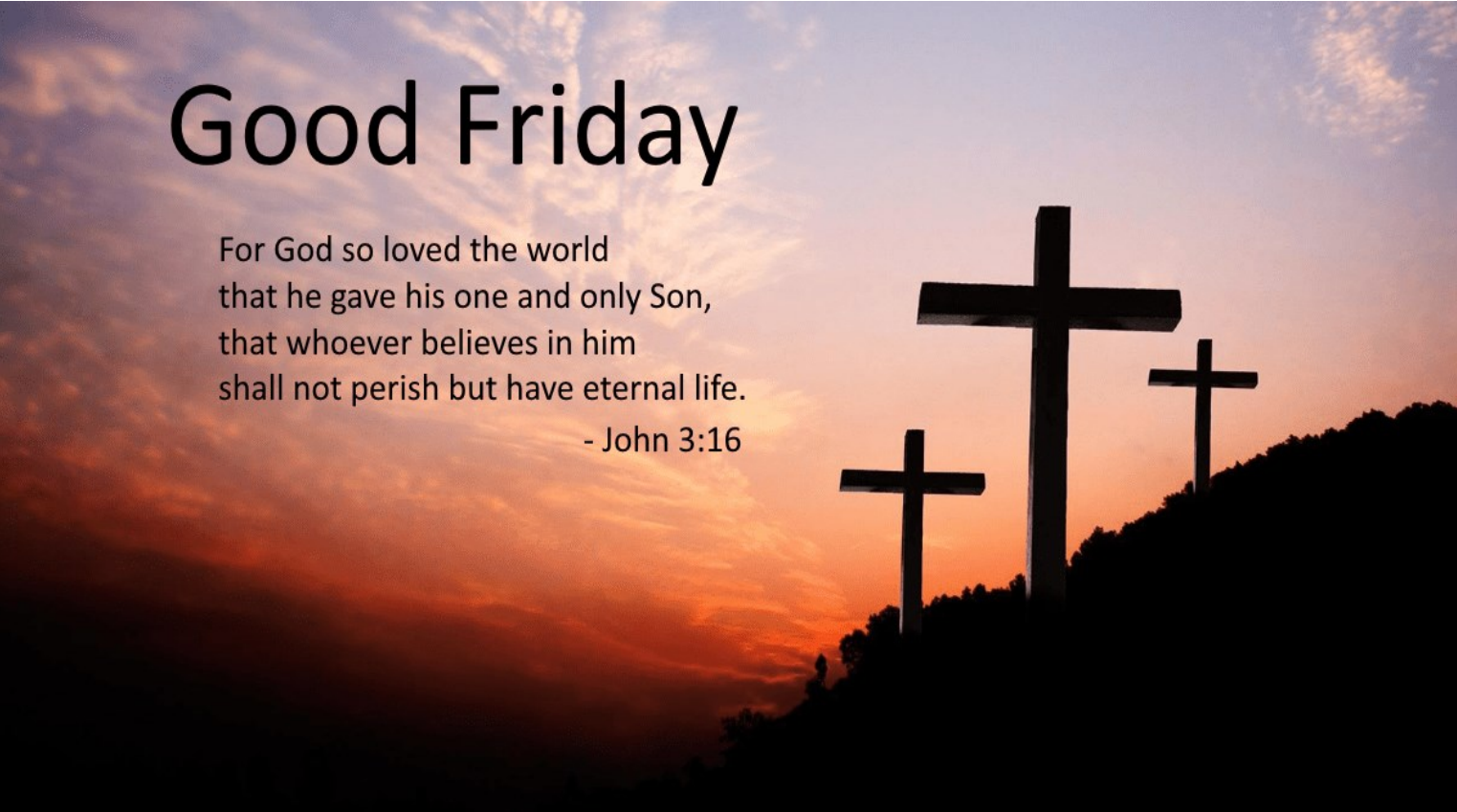
- kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
- L: I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. 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.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
- L: 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.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
- L: 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.
- C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Silence

- L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
C: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Sending Hymn:
“O Sacred Head Now Wounded” #351

The congregation departs in silence. Any wishing to reverence the cross or to remain for silent prayer are welcome.



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Congregation enters in silence

Prayer of the Day

- L: Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself.
- C: **Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD: Reader Geraldine Sobering

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him - so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals - ¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. ^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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. ⁶All 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. ⁷He 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. ⁸By 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. ⁹They 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. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹Out 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. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 22

- L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- C: **My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.**
- L: Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- C: **Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.**
- L: They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- C: **But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- L: All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.
- C: **“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

- L: Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- C: **I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**
- L: Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.
- C: **Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**
- L: They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.
- C: **I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.**
- L: My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.
- C: **Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.**
- L: I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.
- C: **They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.**
- L: But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.
- C: **Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**
- L: Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
- C: **I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**
- L: You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
- C: **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
- L: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- C: **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
- L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- C: **For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**
- L: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
- C: **Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
- L: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

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

¹⁴Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ^{5:7}In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Congregation stands

- L: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer

- L: Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer

- L: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favour on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer

- L: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer

- L: Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer

- L: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer

- L: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer

- L: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.



- L: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

The Lord's Prayer

Procession of the Cross

- L: Behold the life-giving cross, on which hung the Saviour of the whole world.
- C: **Oh come, let us worship him.**

Choir: *“Lamb of God/Were You There”*

- L: Behold the life-giving cross, on which hung the Saviour of the whole world.
- C: **Oh come, let us worship him.**

Silent Prayer

At this time, all that are able are invited to approach the cross to make a sign of devotion, whether kneeling, prostrating, or touching the cross.