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**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Friday, April 3, 2020 +**

## Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: O Lord, open my lips,

**C: and my mouth will declare your praise.**

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C: make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**C: Glory be to Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Psalmody

*Psalm 22:1-5*

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C: Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?**

L: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

**C: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

L: In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

**C: To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

**C: Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Hymn

# 425

[1] When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

[2] Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

[3] See, from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

[4] Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

## **Reading**

## **Mark 15:33-47**

*And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger*

*and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem. And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson**

In the Book of Amos, the Lord speaks through the prophet, saying: *“And on that day,” declares the Lord GOD, “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.”* (Amos 8:9-10)

This word of the Lord in the Book of Amos is fulfilled in our reading today. It is Good Friday in Jerusalem and the Lord Jesus hangs upon a cross. He is surrounded by his enemies who taunt him. He is abandoned by his disciples who fled from him; although some of the women and John stand with courage at a distance and watch.

What is God doing here on Good Friday at the cross? His actions are signified, among other ways, through the coming of darkness. As Mark writes, *"And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* (Mark 15:33-34)

The darkness which comes over the whole land from noon to 3 p.m. is a special darkness, brought about by God himself. The same God who will tear the curtain of the temple in two from top to bottom; the same God who will shake the earth and split the rocks in Jerusalem with an earthquake; the same God who will open the tombs and release the saints throughout the city; this same God will bring darkness over the land.

And for a purpose. Darkness is a sign of judgment. God's judgment has come. God's judgment is poured out. But instead of God's judgment being poured out on sinners; instead of God's judgment being poured out on us; it is poured out on his one and only Son.

Here we come to the cross. Here we come to the central act of God's salvation. Mankind is delivered from the curse of sin and death through the judgment of God poured out on God's one and only Son. The innocent lamb of God is killed for our sins. And God's judgment is appeased and consumed and taken away from us.

No longer will God judge us for our sins. Our sins are forgiven. But that we would not think lightly of this salvation or imagine that our deliverance did not cost God dearly; darkness comes over the land and the Son of God cries out: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

Why has God forsaken his Son? For us and for our salvation. Amen.

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Collect

L: Merciful and everlasting God, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Blessing

L: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn

**# 429**

[1] We sing the praise of Him who died,  
Of Him who died upon the cross.  
The sinner's hope let all deride;  
For this we count the world but loss.

[2] Inscribed upon the cross we see  
In shining letters, "God is Love."  
He bears our sins upon the tree;  
He brings us mercy from above.

[3] The cross! It takes our guilt away;  
It holds the fainting spirit up;  
It cheers with hope the gloomy day  
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.

[4] It makes the coward spirit brave  
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;  
It takes the terror from the grave  
And gilds the bed of death with light;

[5] The balm of life, the cure of woe,  
The measure and the pledge of love,  
The sinner's refuge here below,  
The angels' theme in heav'n above.

[6] To Christ, who won for sinners grace  
By bitter grief and anguish sore,  
Be praise from all the ransomed race  
Forever and forevermore.