**Good friday- april 15**

**zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING (ELW p. 262)**

*All gather in silence. The assembly stands when the ministers stand.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 262)**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12**

A reading from Isaiah.

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. 53:1Who has believed what we have heard?  
  And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL:**

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Were You There* (ELW 353)**

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
  
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
  
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
  
4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
  
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

**BIDDING PRAYER (ELW p. 263)**

Bidding Prayer

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.

By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world.

Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for Susan and Michael our bishops, for our pastors in the NVMA, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God, especially pastoral caregivers and all ministries of healing. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.

Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders.

Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism. *Silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who question their faith… *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, Your faith in us is ever sure,

Even when some doubt your presence. Be gentle with those who wonder where you are. Assure us that your faithfulness persists, And that you make room for questions and uncertainty. Give us solid ground on which to place our feet. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor 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. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. *Silent prayer.*

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. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God. *Silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation. *Silent prayer.*

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. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office. *Silent prayer.*

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. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick and the injured, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, war, 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. **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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.**

**PROCESSION OF THE CROSS (ELW p. 264)**

*A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.*

Behold the lifegiving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*The dialogue is sung a second time at the midpoint of the procession.*

Behold the lifegiving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*The dialogue is sung a third time at the end of the procession.*

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you?

Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way;

I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,

but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit;

I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink;

I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood,

but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed;

I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,

and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,

and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, 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 Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,** **have mercy on us.**

*After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.*

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

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**SENDING HYMN- O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (ELW 351)**

1 O sacred head, now wounded,

with grief and shame weighed down,

now scornfully surrounded

with thorns, thine only crown;

O sacred head, what glory,

what bliss till now was thine!

Yet, though despised and gory,

I joy to call thee mine.

2 How pale thou art with anguish,

with sore abuse and scorn;

how does thy face now languish,

which once was bright as morn!

Thy grief and bitter passion

were all for sinners' gain;

mine, mine was the transgression,

but thine the deadly pain.

3 What language shall I borrow

to thank thee, dearest friend,

for this thy dying sorrow,

thy pity without end?

Oh, make me thine forever,

and should I fainting be,

Lord, let me never, never

outlive my love to thee.

4 Lord, be my consolation;

shield me when I must die;

remind me of thy passion

when my last hour draws nigh.

These eyes, new faith receiving,

from thee shall never move;

for all who die believing

die safely in thy love.

*All depart in silence. If they have not done so earlier, worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.*

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