

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP April 10, 2020
Good Friday

The Confession and Absolution:

We adore You Lord Jesus in Your cross and Passion through which You have brought life and joy into the world through Your suffering and death.

Be gracious to us according to Your mercy and bless us. Shine the light of Your face on us and give us Your peace.

Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God,

At this hour You bore our sins in Your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live for righteousness. Have mercy on us now and at the hour of our death. Give us a holy and peaceful life in this world and through Your grace, eternal glory in the life to come.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

Grant us peace.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, has taken away the sins of the world. By the command of Christ and the power of His death, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.
Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

HYMN LSB 451 Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

**Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast:
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 39:1; 40:1-5, 34-38

From the blue, purple and scarlet yarn they made woven garments for ministering in the sanctuary. They also made sacred garments for Aaron, as the LORD commanded Moses...Then the LORD said to Moses: "Set up the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, on the first day of the first month. Place the Ark of the Covenant law in it and shield the ark with the curtain. Bring in the table and set out what belongs on it. Then bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. Place the gold altar of incense in front of the Ark of the Covenant law and put the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle...Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.

Psalms 27:1-6

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

GOSPEL 1

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Mark 13:1-2

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

GOSPEL 2

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

John 2:12-22

After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days. When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN LSB 456 Were You There

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?

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?

**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?**

SERMON- The Real Temple

Grace, mercy and peace to you through God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One day almost two thousand years ago heaven and earth met at a single point: the cross. All time and space were centered on that point. Heaven was silent before the awful spectacle of the son of God dying. Angels awaited the outcome of the struggle. Rocks exploded with the tension. The sun hid its face from the dreadful scene. Graves could not contain their dead. The son of God was suspended between earth and heaven, bearing the sin of man and suffering the agonies of hell—all compressed into six hours. This is the story that gives meaning to all other stories. This is the story of how salvation was won for mankind.

In Christ Jesus, dear friends. The first house of worship God gave to his people was the tabernacle—the portable house of God. The Israelites built the tabernacle according to God's specific directions. In the courtyard of the tabernacle he accepted their sacrifices which atoned for their sins and in the tabernacle they offered up prayers and petitions which he promised to honor. When the Israelites gathered for worship in the tabernacle, God would come in smoke and fire and fill the tabernacle with his presence. He would lead them with pillars of smoke by day and pillars of fire by night. For forty years they traveled with God and worshipped him in his tabernacle. The tabernacle was Israel's church from the time of Moses to the time of David.

The next house of worship God gave to his people was the temple in Jerusalem which was built by Solomon, the son of David. Described in great detail in the Books of Kings and Chronicles, Solomon's temple was one of the marvels of the ancient world. It was a magnificent structure made of stone and cedar whose walls and furnishings were overlaid with gold and silver. In the courtyard of the temple sacrifices continued to be offered up to atone for the sins of the Israelites and in the temple the priests offered up prayers for the protection and prosperity of Israel.

Later in his life, however, Solomon turned away from worshipping God and allowed pagan religion to spread in Israel. And as the Israelites were drawn more and more to pagan worship, God withdrew his blessings and protection. The social fabric unraveled and when Solomon died, civil war erupted and Israel split into two kingdoms: a northern kingdom and a southern kingdom. Over the next three centuries, the kings that ruled in both kingdoms were mostly evil kings who followed the pagan ways of Solomon and with a few notable exceptions like Hezekiah; they encouraged the people to worship pagan gods. In the northern kingdom King Jeroboam set up pagan shrines and in the southern kingdom, priests defiled the Jerusalem temple with pagan images and rituals.

As a result, God finally abandoned both kingdoms: he abandoned the northern kingdom to the Assyrians who conquered the Israelites in 726 B.C. and he abandoned the southern kingdom to the Babylonians who invaded and conquered them in 586 B.C. They sacked Jerusalem, slaughtered most of the people, tore down the temple and hauled away the remaining citizens to Babylon as prisoners of war. This was an unmitigated disaster for the Israelites who never imagined that God would allow his people to be conquered or his temple to be destroyed. But without God, Israel was just another country and the Jerusalem temple was just another building. A building which had been turned into a pagan shrine and was no longer a temple of God.

But later, God raised up his temple again among the Israelites. First Zerubbabel and then Herod restored it and it was once again a marvel to behold. On one occasion when Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples pointed to it and said, "Look, teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" But Jesus replied, "Do you see all these great buildings? Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." And so it came to pass. Forty years later the Romans came, tore down the temple again. It was never rebuilt and on the temple mount where it stood there now stands a structure called the "Dome of the Rock"—an Islamic mosque.

Once again, God's temple had been destroyed. Or had it? When Jesus drove the moneychangers out of the temple, the Jews demanded that he give them a sign to prove that he had the authority to do so. He answered them, "destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days." Understandably, the Jews were deeply skeptical. "It has taken forty six years to build this temple," they said, "and you are going to raise it up in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. Jesus himself was the real temple of God. Now that was hard for them to accept—or even understand. It's a little hard for us to accept and understand as well. How can the body of a man be a temple?

Before we answer that question, we first need to ask: what exactly **is** God's temple? What takes place in God's temple? And the answer is that God's temple is the place where heaven and earth meet and where sinful man and a righteous God can be reconciled. In the tabernacle and the temple the Israelites were reconciled to Yahweh through the sacrifices of animals which he allowed to atone for their sins. In Jesus Christ, all men are reconciled to God through the sacrifice of his body on the cross which atoned for their sins. In the Old Testament the sins of the Israelites were atoned for by the blood of lambs. At the cross of Calvary, the sins of all mankind were atoned for by the blood of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Each year—on Yom Kaphar—the sins of Israelites which had not been confessed and forgiven were laid on the head of a scapegoat which would bear them away into the wilderness and die with them there. Jesus our divine scapegoat bore our sins on the cross and died with them there.

Jesus is the true temple. But that temple, like the others, had to be brought down so that the church, the new body of Christ in this world, could be raised up as the place where sinful man and a righteous God meet and are reconciled through the forgiveness of sins. But one day this temple too will be brought down. The bible makes it clear that as time goes on; the church of God will be increasingly persecuted and attacked and will finally fall. The voice of the gospel will be silenced.

But God will raise it up again when this world passes away and he replaces it with a new heavens and a new earth, and we will all dwell in the New Jerusalem of God, a city not made with human hands. Meanwhile, we abide in the body of Christ on earth, the church, and we take our encouragement and our joy in the words our Savior spoke to his disciples the night before he was crucified: "in a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me. I tell you the truth; you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy!" The peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Father in heaven, As we labor under fear of this virus, please give us confident hearts, knowing that you are in control of all things and that you will rein in this disease and deliver our country from economic chaos.

We especially pray for the following people:

- For Milt Colburn who is receiving physical therapy at Anna Maria. Lift his spirits and strengthen his body so that he can return home soon.
- For Glenda Colburn during this time of separation from her husband Milt.
- For Wyatt Mullins, that he will receive an accurate and favorable diagnosis of his liver problems and be enabled to live a normal and healthy life.
- For all healthcare workers who are exposed to the Covid-19 virus every day, that you would keep them safe and healthy and bless the important work that they do.

We pray all these things in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN LSB 440 Jesus I Will Ponder Now

Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.

Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion:
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.