

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Laurens, NY

With

Laurens Presbyterian Church

ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 10, 2020

7:00 pm

The Invocation and Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we ask you to look with 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.

Com

The Reproaches (the Lord's lament against His faithless people)

Leader: Oh my people, what have I done to you, or in what way have I offended you? Testify against me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy eternal one, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I led you through the desert for forty years, and fed you with manna. I brought you into a land of plenty, but you have prepared a cross for your savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy eternal one, have mercy upon us.

Leader: What more could I have done for you that I have not done? Indeed, I planted you; my chosen and fairest vine, but you have yielded only bitterness. When I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink, and you have pierced with a spear the side of your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy eternal one, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I scourged Egypt with its first born for your sake: and you have scourged me and delivered me up. I led you out of Egypt, drowning Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea, and you have delivered me to the chief priests. I opened the sea before you and you have opened my side with a spear.

All: Oh my people, what have I done, or in what way have I offended you? Testify against me.

Leader: I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I fed you with manna in the desert, and you have beaten me with blows and scourges. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink.

All: Oh my people, what have I done, or in what way have I offended you? Testify against me.

Leader: I struck down the kings of Canaan for your sake, and you struck my head with a rod. I gave you a royal scepter, and you gave me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, and you have hanged me on the gallows of the cross.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy eternal one, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I gave you my peace which the world could not give, and you draw the sword, and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, and you deny me, scatter, and abandon me.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy eternal one, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I sent you the spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that you be one as the Father and the Son are one, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I chose you out of the world to go and bring forth fruit, and you hate me and break my commandments.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy eternal one, have mercy upon us.

(silence for reflection).

Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LBW 115

Jesus' Last Words

The First Word from the Cross

Lector: We adore you, oh Christ, and we bless you.

All: For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Luke 23:26-38

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to

them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

(Silence as the first candle is extinguished)

Hymn

Come to Calvary’s Mountain

LBW 301

The Second Word from the Cross

Lector: We adore you, oh Christ, and we bless you.

All: For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

(Silence as the second candle is extinguished)

Hymn

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LBW 102

The Third Word from the Cross

Lector: We adore you, oh Christ, and we bless you.

All: For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

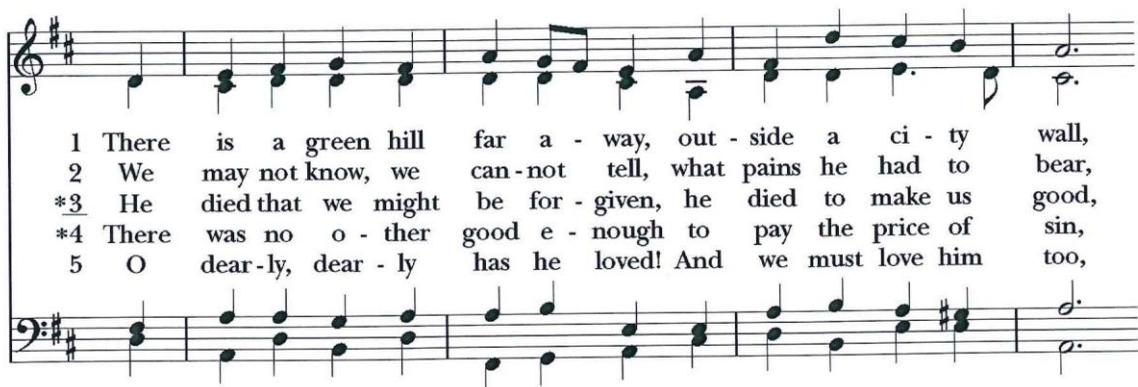
Reading: John 19:25-27

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

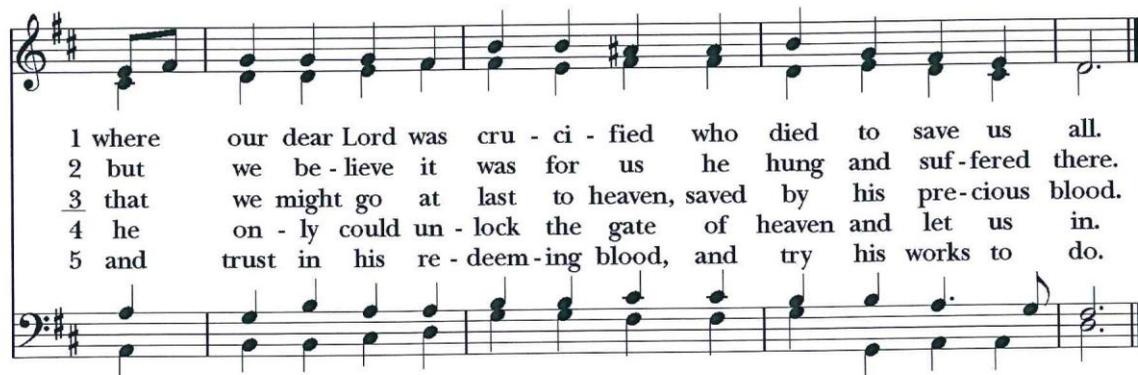
(Silence as the third candle is extinguished)

Hymn

There is a Green Hill Far Away



1 There is a green hill far a - way, out - side a ci - ty wall,
2 We may not know, we can - not tell, what pains he had to bear,
*3 He died that we might be for - given, he died to make us good,
*4 There was no o - ther good e - nough to pay the price of sin,
5 O dear - ly, dear - ly has he loved! And we must love him too,



1 where our dear Lord was cru - ci - fied who died to save us all.
2 but we be - lieve it was for us he hung and suf - fered there.
3 that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his pre - cious blood.
4 he on - ly could un - lock the gate of heaven and let us in.
5 and trust in his re - deem - ing blood, and try his works to do.

The Fourth Word from the Cross

Lector: We adore you, oh Christ, and we bless you.

All: For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Matthew 27:45-50

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

(Silence as the fourth candle is extinguished)

Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus

LBW 123

The Fifth Word from the Cross

Lector: We adore you, oh Christ, and we bless you.

All: For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: John 19:28

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scriptures), “I thirst.”

(Silence as the fifth candle is extinguished)

Hymn

Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes (part V)

LBW 112

The Sixth Word from the Cross

Lector: We adore you, oh Christ, and we bless you.

All: For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: John 19:29-30

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. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished”, and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(Silence as the sixth candle is extinguished)

Hymn

Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes (part VI)

LBW 112

The Seventh Word from the Cross

Lector: We adore you, oh Christ, and we bless you.

All: For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Luke 23:44-49

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. The Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

(Silence as the seventh candle is extinguished)

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LBW 117

(After the last candle is extinguished, the Christ candle is symbolically “buried” under the altar and the church is darkened, signifying Christ’s descent into hell and his victory over the deepest darkness of sin, death, and the devil.)

The Bidding Prayer (stand, sit, or kneel)

(On Good Friday, the church’s ancient Bidding Prayer is sung or spoken.)

All: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God, the almighty Father, guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship Him in peace and tranquility.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All: Let us pray for our bishops, pastors, deacons, and other leaders, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold all our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All: Let us pray for those preparing for Baptism, that God make them responsive to his love, and give them new life in Jesus Christ.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for Baptism. Give them a 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.*

All: Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep them together in one Church all those who know Christ as Lord.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you give your Church its unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our Baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the Word of God, that they may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham, Sarah and their posterity. Hear the prayers of your Church that the people you first made your own may arrive with us at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

All: Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

All: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find Him who is the author and goal of our existence.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the harmful things that may stand in their way, all may recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

All: Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

All: Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, homelessness, and disease.

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary, and new courage to those who have lost heart. 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.***

All: Finally, let us pray for all things for which our Lord taught us to ask:

The Lord's Prayer (said quietly)

*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.*

(If it was not placed before the service began, a cross may be carried in procession through the church and placed in front of the altar.)

Adoration of the Cross

Pastor: Behold the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

All: Oh, come let us worship him.

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All: Oh, come let us worship him.

Pastor: We adore you, oh Christ, and we bless you.

All: For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(A loud noise is made, signifying the earthquake ay Jesus' death. You may remain for prayer and reflection. When you leave, please do so silently)

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April 11th Holy Saturday – Vigil of Easter

9 pm – at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 39 Walnut St. Oneonta (Pr. Paul participating)

April 12th + Easter+ Festival of the Resurrection

8:30 am – St. Matthew's, Laurens

10:00 am – Laurens Presbyterian