

Good Friday, April 3, 2015
Service of the Nails



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.
Please notify usher if you would like assistance

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF THE NAILS

As we come into this Holy Place, let us contemplate the meaning of Christ's death. Before the service this morning, pray for a better understanding of this passion event. Read one of the penitential Psalms #6, or #139(in the Cranberry Hymnal) to be reminded again of man's weakness in the sight of God.

THE LITANY OF THE CROSS

P: O Holy Spirit of God, you spoke through the prophets of long ago; may we today hear their words and feel the messages they proclaimed and see the fulfillment of their speaking in the bold actions on our behalf which you have taken in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. All we, like sheep, have gone astray.

C: We have turned, every one, to our own way.

P: It is our nature to rebel against you, O God, and to presume that we can put ourselves in your place; but in Baptism, you received us and called forth from us belief and trust.

C: Continue to grant us your forgiveness and seek us out, calling us to the way of truth.

P: May we never forget, O God, the suffering which Jesus endured at the hands of sinful people. Let us blame no others, for it was sin like ours that nailed Him to the tree.

C: We rejoice that Jesus trusted in you, O God, and that you carried Him through suffering to victory.

P: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

C: Yet we have thought of him as being stricken down, beaten by God, and hurt.

P: Heavenly Father, although we do not deserve your love, you have gone far beyond our wishes or dreams to conquer the sin which would control us.

C: You have set us free from sin and death through the obedient sacrifice of Jesus, your Son.

P: We are deeply thankful that Jesus' death and resurrection is the effective gift of our salvation.

C: You have covered the sins of all repentant peoples of every time and every place.

P: You gave Christ the victory, O God; as he has conquered sin and death, so may we, through him, be made victors, and be set free from slavery to sin.

C: Give us your gift of eternal life that we may stand in your holy presence! Amen!

THE CONFESSION

P: Let us humbly make confession unto God, imploring His forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: O God, our Heavenly Father, I confess unto Thee that I have grievously sinned against Thee in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known unto Thee. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my offenses, and I beseech thee of Thy great goodness to have mercy upon me, and for the sake of Thy Dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to forgive my sins and graciously to help my infirmities. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and for the sake of the sufferings, death and resurrection of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgives us all our sins. As a Minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you who do truly repent and believe in Him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins; In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

P On the other hand, by the same authority, I declare unto the impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as they continue in their wayward ways, happiness, joy and peace will elude them. It is our fervent prayer that they come to true repentance and faith in Christ, ere the day of grace is ended.

THE ANTHEM ----- *“The Old Rugged Cross”*

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain.

CHORUS: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last
I lay down, I will cling to the old rugged cross, and
exchange it someday for a crown.

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary.

CHORUS.

3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see. For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

CHORUS.

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 23: 33-43

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”^[a] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”^[b]

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

THE GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION: “A King Like No Other”

THE OFFERING

HYMN *“Just As I Am”* #592 ELW

THE GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER

P Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. There is the smell of death in the air.

C: It is death we smell. Jesus our Lord is walking toward Jerusalem.

P: A bitter walk, a lonely walk, a painful walk, a passionate walk.

C: To die, to die a cruel death, an agonizing death, an unjust death.

P: But a compassionate death, a necessary death.

ALL: Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, O Lord on Your way to death, have mercy on us.

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

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

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

ALL: Oh, come, let us worship him.

P: Oh 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.

ALL: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us. Amen.

P. 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.

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

P: 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.

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

P: 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.

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

P: 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.

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

P: 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.

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

ALL: Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, O Lord on Your way to death, have mercy on us.

P: We need to die, too.

C: We need to die to everything that keeps God out and love from flowing.

P: But we did die already. We died with Him. In the waters of Baptism, in his Body and Blood.

C: So we can live. That's why He died, so we can live.

P: There is forgiveness. There is mercy. There is peace.

C: There is joy in dying, His dying, and our dying. That's why He died.

P: He is the only answer. We need that answer.

C: We need that answer.

P: We are sorry. We are very sorry.

Remember He walks to His death for you to die with Him.

C: Remember He walks to His death for you to live.

ALL: Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, O Lord, on Your way to death, have mercy on us.

Amen.

THE POUNDING OF THE NAILS

*As we close our service, all adults are asked to come forward
to pound a spike into the Cross.*

*The pounding of the spike
reminds us that Christ has gone to the Cross for each of us---
that our sins might be forgiven.*

*You may leave quietly
or
return to your seats for private meditation.*

Let us prepare for His return.

Easter Sunday Services

April 5th at 8:30am and 10:00 am

Easter Morning Coffee and Fellowship between Services
