

+ GOOD FRIDAY / SERVICE OF DARKNESS +

Liturgy of the Cross and Tenebrae Vespers, April 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Stand, facing entrance as the rough-hewn cross is brought in. Spoken thrice:

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

Oh, come, let us worship him. *after the cross is placed, sing:*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, *you may be seated for the hymn*
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.

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 some day for a crown.

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. *Refrain*

ENTRANCE VERSES *stand*

O Lord, open my lips, **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
Make haste, O God, to deliver me; **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

PSALMODY *Ps. 22:1, 6-8, 11, 18-19*

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

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads:
“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him.”

Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
They divide my garments among them
and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not be far off!

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

HYMN #425

SALUTATION AND PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

GOSPEL READING: John 19:16-24; 28-42

READINGS *after each . . .* **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #434

SERMON: The Cross Of Christ – Symbol Of Life

NOTE: The sermon will be interspersed with verses from **Hymn #450**

HYMN #450

Christ Our Brother in Death:	vs. 1	
A Death on Two Levels:	vs. 2	
Fulfillment Of Mission:	vs. 3	<i>(candles are</i>
Accomplished In Death:	vs. 4	<i>progressively</i>
Called To Surrender Our Lives:	vs. 5	<i>extinguished)</i>
The Cross As the Pattern of Our Lives:	vs. 6	
God Brings Life Out of Death:	vs. 7	

HYMN #456

We now provide opportunity for you to confess your individual sins privately. This can be done by writing those sins on the paper provided to you and bringing them forward and placing them in the basket. THESE PAPERS WILL BE KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. Tomorrow evening they will be placed in the fire outside that begins our Easter Vigil; symbolically showing that Christ has died on the cross for ALL sins and all our sins are forgiven.

PRAYERS: Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, hear my prayer. **And let my cry come to You.**

Intercessory prayers & The Lord's Prayer

HYMN #430 *The first five verses will be sung by the congregation. After that, the lights will be dimmed and verses six and seven will be sung as a solo. During this time the congregation is invited to meditate on the crucified Savior and our redemption. After that, one more verse of the hymn will be played by the organist as the lone candle is removed signifying Christ's death and burial, awaiting the reintroduction of light at Saturday's Great Vigil of Easter, 7 p.m. tomorrow. The noise from the closing of the Lectionary signifies that with Jesus' death, the purpose of the cross was fulfilled and his sacrifice completed. After a time of silent prayer all may depart quietly and reverently. Offerings are received at the door.*

