



**WELCOME TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

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Pastor Thomas Clocker

www.stjohnsws.com

**Good Friday
March 30, 2018– 7:00 p.m.**

***St. John's Mission: To help one more person get to Heaven
by pointing them to Jesus Christ.***

Meditation

P: Good Friday, more than any day in history or in our annual Church year, causes us, with somber reverence and grim reality, to reflect upon our sin – our personal sin that Jesus suffered and died for. However, by taking us spiritually through the darkness of our own sin and the horrible events of that day, God does a marvelous thing in our lives. He reveals our crucial and awesome need for a Savior. We see the terrible effects of our sin, despair of any hope, and trust Him alone. Then Easter Sunday becomes a day of even greater joy and celebration as we realize our sins are truly gone, death is defeated, and we again have forever the love and mercy of God. Come with me, this evening, as God again takes us to the cold, dark mountain of Calvary. By the power of God's Spirit, realize your sin and your great need for forgiveness and be prepared to rejoice in Christ – THE SAVIOR. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invocation

The Reproaches An ancient part of Good Friday liturgical tradition, it expresses in Biblical language God's righteous judgement against His people. The indictments are taken from Micah 6 and Isaiah 5.

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me! For I have raised you up out of the prison-house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people!

C: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me! For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people!

C: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me! What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O my people.

C: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

Silent Meditation upon our personal sins that sent Jesus to the cross.

Prayer of Confession in unison

All: Lord God, Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die for the sins of all people. The cross was His goal. His death purchased our forgiveness. The nails, the suffering, the thirst, the thorns, the spear, the agony, speak of Your great love for lost sinners. On this most holy and solemn day, I confess that it was my sin for which Jesus came, lived and died. I repent that I am a sinner in thought, word, and deed. By Your grace, I cling to Jesus for my forgiveness. May my life reflect to others the width and depth of His great love. Hear me, Father, in the name of Your Son, who died for me! Amen.

Forgiveness

P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we celebrate today, Good Friday. Good because it is the day Jesus died and made payment for our sins. Because of His precious suffering and death, you are forgiven. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Hymn #449 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Psalm 22 – front portion of the Hymnal

Isaiah 53

Hymn – “The Old Rugged Cross”

Verse 1

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suff'ring 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 some day for a crown

Verse 2

O 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*)

Verse 3

In that 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*)

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Sermon: “Were You There?”

A Passion Tenebrae

P: The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. And when they had mocked Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him. As they led Him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed Him, including women who mourned and wailed for Him. Jesus turned and said to them:

Men: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say,

Women: ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’

Men: “Then they will say to the mountains: ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills: ‘Cover us!’ For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

P: Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. They came to a place called Golgatha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, He refused to drink it. There they crucified Him, along with the criminals – one on His right, the other on His left. Jesus said,

Men: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

(The First Candle – The Word of Pardon)

P: In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked Him:

C: “He saved others, but He can’t save Himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, ‘I am the son of God.’”

Women: One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him:

Men: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

Women: But the other criminal rebuked him. He said:

P: “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

Men: “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

(The Second Candle – The Word of Promise)

P: Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother:

Men: “Dear woman, here is your son.”

P: And to the disciple:

Men: “Here is your mother.”

P: From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

(The Third Candle – The Word of Love)

Women: At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

P: “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”

Women: which means:

Men: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”

P: When some of those standing near heard this, they said:

C: “Listen, He’s calling Elijah.”

(The Fourth Candle – The Word of Justice)

P: Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said,

Men: “I am thirsty.”

(The Fifth Candle – The Word of Torment)

P: A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When He had received the drink, Jesus said:

Men: "It is finished."

(The Sixth Candle – The Word of Triumph)

P: Jesus called out with a loud voice:

Men: "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit."

(The Seventh Candle – The Word of Rest)

P: At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed:

C: "Surely He was the Son of God!"

P: The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

C: Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

P: These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled:

C: "Not one of His bones will be broken."

P: And, as another scripture says,

C: "They will look on the one they have pierced."

P: Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God.

Men: Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus

had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

Women: So Joseph took the body. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

P: At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden Joseph's own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there and rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Women: The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how His body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

P: The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. They said,

Men: "Sir, we remember that while He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

Women: Pilate answered:

P: "Take a guard. Go; make the tomb as secure as you know how."

C: So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Hymn: #456 "Were You There?"

The Silence

The Slamming of the Tomb

We Depart in Silence (to return on Easter morning)

Please bring live flowers from your yard or elsewhere for the outside Easter cross on Easter Sunday morning.

Easter Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion at both



Our Sunday Worship - Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class both begin at 9:30 a.m.

A Great Place to Grow in Christ

*As a part of our outreach ministry, we have a
Preschool/Pre-K program and Kindergarten through 8th grade.
All programs/grades have full-time care available.*

Pastor Thomas Clocker, 301-732-9203, revclocker@gmail.com

Mark Edmiston, Principal

Tom Baldwin, Director of Admissions and Community Relations

Sonia Davidson, Director of Preschool

Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship

Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship

Church Office Hours Monday through Thursday,
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.