



GUIDED

to the

CROSS

Good Friday

GUIDED TO SACRIFICE

6:30 p.m. – Service of the Word

Order of Service
Saint Michael Lutheran Church
3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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Good Friday

March 29, 2024

*In this service for Good Friday, we ponder Christ's death on the cross as a sacrifice for us all.
In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of sacrifice guided by Christ and the cross.*

Gather in Silence

Hymn

"O Perfect Life of Love"
(vs. 1-2, 4-5)

452

Responsive Reading

Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 16-18, 27-28; John 1:29

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Jesus' ancestor, David the psalmist, foretold by divine inspiration the suffering and sacrifice of his descendant, Jesus, the Lamb of God. Nailed to the cross, Jesus prayed using words from the prophetic psalm, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

People: 'He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!'

Pastor: For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

People: They have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—

Pastor: They stare and gloat over me;

People: They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Pastor: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

People: And all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

Pastor: For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations."

People: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Confession & Absolution

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We seek to satisfy our own selfish desires. We listen to the temptations of the world around us instead of following your Word and ways. We do not love others as we should. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

(Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.)

Pastor: God in his grace and mercy sent his Son into the world as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6) As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: By His wounds we are healed. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Special Music

"In the Silence"

*words and music by Katie Ball
offered by Katie Ball*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53:6-9 (NIV)

⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. ⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 10:12-14

¹²But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Holy Gospel

John 19:31-35

³¹Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵The 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.

Hymn of the Day

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

449

Sermon

"Guided to the Cross: Guided to Sacrifice"

Pastor Dave Bass

To watch and listen to last week's sermon online at www.smlcs.org,
click on "Church" and "Watch the Live Stream."

The Nicene Creed

Offering

"Remember Me, Lord, in Your Kingdom"

by Ben Ball
offered by the Sanctuary Choir

A special stewardship note to our guests: the ministries and work of Saint Michael Lutheran Church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends as they steward God's gifts. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled or pressured to make a contribution.

Online contributions and donations can be made by clicking this link: tinyurl.com/SMLGiving.
You may also mail your offerings to the church office: 3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901.

Prayers

Pastor: Lord Jesus, when John the Baptist saw You, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." You came to be the perfect sacrifice, to bear our sins in Your body on the cross, to give up Your life to save us. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we give thanks for those who each day sacrifice so much for us: family members, those in the armed forces, first responders and so many more. Watch over them, and keep them in your care. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are suffering through illness, pain or grief. Strengthen those who sacrifice their time to care for others. Give those who suffer and those who care for them the hope and comfort found in the promises of Your Word. Open our eyes to see opportunities to serve and care for those in need. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: **Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, lead us to sacrifice our time, talents and treasures in service to You through our service to others. Help us to bear the cross and follow Your path of sacrifice. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, as we remember today Your sacrifice on the cross, we look forward to Easter morning when we will rejoice in Your triumphant resurrection. Through Your sacrificial death we are forgiven. In Your resurrection, we have life now and forever. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: **Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Solo

"Were You There"

traditional
offered by Jake Hake

The Removal of the Christ Candle

The removal of the Christ Candle takes place to symbolize that our Savior hung in darkness for three God-forsaken hours before He died for the sins of the world.

The strepitus is heard, a loud sound that symbolizes the stone being rolled into place to seal Jesus' tomb. The congregation leaves in silence as we remember Jesus' sacrifice and look forward to the joy of His resurrection.

The congregation departs in silence.