

# Good Friday

An old legend has it that after Jesus called Lazarus to life from his tomb, people would badger Lazarus with questions about what it was like being dead. What did he see? Hear? Feel?

But Lazarus never answered.

According to the legend, Lazarus just laughed.

Like those asking questions of Lazarus,  
we know Christ has conquered death,  
But we persist: even in our curiosity there is fear.

*Because God's children are human beings  
—made of flesh & blood—the Son also became flesh & blood.  
For only as a human being could he die, & only by dying  
could he break the power of the devil,  
who had the power of death.*

*Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives  
as slaves to the fear of dying. - Heb. 2:14-15*

Death can hold us captive to fear for a lifetime,  
not only at the end of it.

But we die not as “those who have no hope,”  
but as those who are being hand-led into victory by Christ  
whose death we experience tonight.

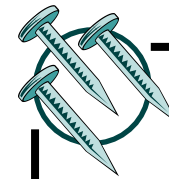
His death opens for us the great promise:

*I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying,  
“Look, God's home is now among his people!  
He will live with them & they will be his people.*

*God himself will be with them.*

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes,  
& there will be no more death  
or sorrow or crying or pain.*

*All these things are gone forever.” --Rev. 21:3-4*



*Living Water Fellowship*

**GOOD FRIDAY**

29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024



## *Come to Jesus*

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

#### THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL: *(1 Corinthians 15:1-7)*

**P:** Let me now remind you, dear brothers & sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, & you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you...

I passed on to you what was most important & what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, & he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

#### THE PASSION: **John 18:1-14**

**SONG:** The Wonderful Cross

## *Grow in His Grace*

#### THE PASSION: **John 18:15-24**

**SONG:** The Servant King (AT 261)

#### THE PASSION: **John 18:25-32**

#### CHILDREN'S TIME:

#### REPENTANCE AND HEALING:

Jesus you took bread & broke it, You shared it with your friends.

**You were broken to feed us with the bread of life.**

Jesus you took wine and poured it out, grapes crushed & drained of life.

**You were crushed & drained of your life blood.**

Jesus you prayed fervently in agony of spirit, that God's cup of suffering might pass from you. Your sweat fell like drops of blood yet you endured the pain.

**You hung upon a tree & were crucified for us.**

Yet you looked in compassion on your murderers.

**Look too in compassion on we who caused your suffering & your death.**

Jesus you died for us & fell as a seed into the ground.

**You promised your death would produce a plentiful harvest of new life.**

Work in us so that we may also die to ourselves so that others may find true & eternal life. Keep our eyes on Christ, O God.

**"He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins."**

**"He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."**

Keep our eyes on Christ, O God—

**Only in him is the final enemy, death, destroyed.**

**SONG:** O Dearest Jesus

#### THE PASSION: **John 18:33-40**

**P:** Loving God, have mercy on your human family, for whom Christ Jesus accepted the shame of betrayal, trial, abuse & crucifixion. May we who love him a little, & hope to love him more, cling to him in faith & renew our trust in his promises to us. Then by his grace, & in the power of your Holy Spirit, may we worship & serve you now & forever. **Amen.**

#### THE PASSION: **John 19:1-16**

#### THE SERMON: *THE TRUTH: JESUS IS SACRIFICE*

#### THE PASSION: **John 19:17-30**

**OFFERING SONG:** When Our Life Began Again (AT 147)

#### PRAYERS:

#### THE COMMUNION

*Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship during distribution: Death Was Arrested (NorthPoint)*

## *Go In His Power*

#### COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER: *(Hebrews 12)*

**P:** The crucified Jesus Christ fill you with his saving love & grace.

**C: Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, we stand surrounded by all those who have gone before; an enormous cloud of witnesses. So let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the long race set before us.

We keep our eyes and hearts locked onto Jesus, who designed and completes our faith. He endured the cross and ignored the shame of that death because He was anchored in the joy set before Him; the joy of our salvation, and now He is seated beside God on the throne in the place of highest honour.

Almighty God, your Son suffered death on the cross, before he was enthroned in glory: Grant that as we walk with him on the way of the cross, we find it to be the way of pardon, peace and life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### THE PASSION: **John 19:31-42**

## *Show His Love*