SILENT REFLECTION

THE PASTORAL PRAYER LORD'S PRAYER

Infinite heavenly Father, our hearts weigh heavy, confusion clouds our minds, and words fail us as we speak during this Passion Week. Our world around us appears to be in a constant upheaval from various unfamiliar changes, cultural disunity, economic collapse, political bickering, religious disagreements, international squabbling, and a medical pandemic. The family unit is being attacked on all sides, while our churches are looking inwardly instead of upwardly and outwardly.

Help us to keep our attention firmly fixed upon our Lord as we seek to find sound answers in the Holy Scriptures and listen patiently for that still quiet voice of God as we humbly pray. Enable us to bind ourselves into the body of Christ, the Church, as we obediently serve the Kingdom of God.

Allow the Holy Spirit to calm our fears so that the Word of God can penetrate our body, soul and spirit. Help the water

of the Word to wash over our confusion and grant us understanding. Enable our minds to comprehend fully the vast faithfulness, love, and obedience of Jesus Christ our Lord, who became a loving sacrifice for our benefit.

In the name of Jesus the Christ let us pray the prayer he taught his disciples:

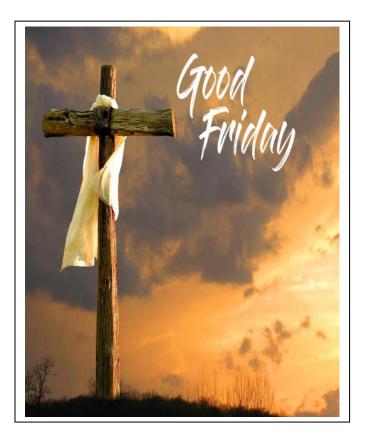
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN Were You There

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The Light of Christ goes before us.

Depart in Silence.



Pastor: Rev. Larry Myers Music: Deb Myers



Polk Presbyterian Church April 7, 2023 Good Friday

Gather in Silence.

Lighting of Christ Candles

Time for meditation and reflection.

CALL TO WORSHIP Hebrews 10:19-25

L: Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,

P: By the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh),

L: Since we have a great priest over the house of God,

P: Let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

L: Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

P: And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,

All: Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

PRAYER OF MEDITATION Psalm 22:1-19

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

P O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

L: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

P: In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

L: To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

P: But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

L: All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me; they shake their heads;

P: Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver--let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

L: Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

P: On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

L: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

P: Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

L: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

P: For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.

L: My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all my bones.

P: They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

All: But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

*Praise Hymn Beneath the Cross of Jesus #407

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*THE DOXOLOGY

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SCRIPTURE READING: John 18:1-19:42 John 19:16-42

(P) Thanks be to God