

Good Friday: “We rejoice to know that one day this love will prevail”

Texts

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

John 18:1-19:42

Hebrews 10:16-25

Focus Statement: Though terror and grief surround us, God’s steadfast, relentless love endures forever. We rejoice to know that one day this love will prevail, and all creation will worship the One whom God has exalted. We celebrate this love in remembering the suffering and death of Jesus, God’s beloved Son.

Visual Focus: The color of the service is black (small touches of red may be appropriate), the tone somber and reflective, the pace deliberate and unhurried. Lights may be dimmed; a large cross may stand bare at the front. The altar table is draped in black with a single white candle or seven white candles burning on it. Pulpit, piano/organ, etc., may also be covered with dark cloths.

Gathering

Opening Hymn: “Go to dark Gethsemane” HWB 240

Prayer: Holy God, the earth waits in silence; we tremble before your throne. On this day we see and feel the immensity of your love and our own unworthiness. Open our hearts now to receive your redeeming grace. We pray in the name of our Savior. Amen.

Proclaiming the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Hymn: “Ah, holy Jesus” HWB 254

Second Reading: Psalm 22

Silence

Passion Reading: John 18:1-19:42

The passion reading may be divided into 7 parts, followed by silence or singing “Jesus remember me” HWB 247 or other hymns, and extinguishing a candle after each reading.

Prayers of Intercession

On Good Friday, the church traditionally stands in solidarity with all who suffer in the world and offers prayers for the freedom and liberation of those in pain or those enduring persecution or oppression. Invite free prayers or lead a bidding prayer that invites people to name persons or situations in various categories (see Prayer #44 in *Words for Worship* by Arlene Mark, Herald Press, 1996). If you choose, you might invite worshipers to kneel around a cross during these prayers. Another option would be to invite worshipers to kneel around the cross after the corporate prayers, providing an opportunity for silent prayer.

Sending

Prayer:

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.
Body of Christ, save us.
Blood of Christ, inebriate us.
Water from the side of Christ, wash us.
Passion of Christ, strengthen us.
O Good Jesus, hear us.
Within your wounds, hide us.
Permit us not to be separated from you.
From the wicked foe defend us.
At the hour of our death
call us and bid us to come to you,
that with your saints
we may praise you forever and ever. Amen.
—*Ignatius of Loyola*

Closing Hymn: “Christ, we do all adore thee” HWB 105