

Welcome to this Good Friday service at Cornerstone. Our hope is that you would enter expectantly, worship deeply, and leave quietly this evening with your heart centered on the suffering of Christ for you and your salvation. Tonight's service will be unique in that elements of liturgy, such as the public reading of Scripture, responsive reading, and confession, will be used more prominently. Liturgy simply means "work of the people." It invites participation in worship, responding to God for who He is and what He has done. Our hope is that, instead of being spectators, you would respond communally and actively to God tonight. On this night we remember and celebrate the crucifixion of Christ. He who is King of angels was arrayed in a crown of thorns, beaten, mocked, and forced to carry His own cross to Golgotha. We gather this evening like those who were gathered around the foot of the cross. We hear our voice among the mockers, and above them all the voice of the crucified Savior cries out, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" And as Christ breathed His last, we, too, echo those who gathered that day saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" May the Lord incline our hearts and open our eyes to His great love as we worship Him.

Pastor: Like the disciples in Gethsemane, we fell away from prayer at the beginning of the trial.

Church: Forgive us, O God, for we know not what we do.

Pastor: Like Caiaphas and the high council, we spit in Your face and slapped the Son of God.

Church: Forgive us, O God, for we know not what we do.

Pastor: Like Peter, three times when questioned, we denied knowing the Son of God.

Church: Forgive us, O God, for we know not what we do.

Pastor: Like the people who cried out for Barabbas, we yelled, "Let Christ be crucified!"

Church: Forgive us, O God, for we know not what we do.

Pastor: Like Pilate, before the yelling crowds, we wash our hands and wrongfully say, "I am innocent of this man's blood..."

Church: Forgive us, O God, for we know not what we do.

Pastor: Like the soldiers who prepared Jesus for His crucifixion, we have stripped You, placing a crown of thorns on Your head, bending our knees not to praise You, but to mock You.

Church: Forgive us, O God, for we know not what we do.

Pastor: Like the centurion standing at the foot of the cross, we hear Jesus of Nazareth cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In the distance, the curtain of the temple is torn, the earth begins to shake under a sky of darkness, and we look up filled with awe...

Church: Truly this was the Son of God!

*Psalm 22:1-6 (ESV) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.*

*Psalm 22:7-11 (NIV) All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let the Lord deliver him, since he delights in the Lord." Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you...From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.*

*Isaiah 53:3–6 (ESV) He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 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 53:7–10 (ESV) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

*John 19:1–9 (ESV) Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.*

*John 19:10-16 (ESV) So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus...*

Pastor: And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Church: O what a gracious Savior.

Pastor: And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Church: O what a merciful Savior.

Pastor: When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Church: O what a beautiful Savior.

Pastor: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Church: O what a costly redemption.

Pastor: After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

Church: O what agony He endured for us.

Pastor: A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Church: O what a costly redemption.

Pastor: Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Church: O what a costly redemption.