

The Trees of Salvation

Our Lenten Midweek theme this year looked at how trees are often used in the Bible as pictures of faith and spiritual life. We read in Deuteronomy 21:23, "If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him the same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse." By New Testament times, hanging trees were replaced with crosses, but their curse remained. Today, we look at the tree of the Cross as we meditate on the saving gift of Jesus' suffering and death and His curse on the Cross.



Good Friday, April 3, 2026

The Curse Tree

[From very early times, it has been the custom to not use the altar this one day of the year. This morning all parts of the service will be spoken with the Pastor facing the congregation and not the altar. There will be no music before the service. The Sanctuary will be dark and silent. Also, there will be no Invocation because this service continues from the Maundy Thursday service.]

THE ENTRANCE:

The Pastor comes forward while Psalm 22:1-2,4-7,17-19 is read.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, graciously behold this, Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the Cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: 453, "Upon the Cross", stanzas 1-4

LESSON: Isaiah 52:13-15; 53:1-12

THE REPROACHES

P: Thus says the Lord, "What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Saviour to the cross. O My people.

R: *Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer. God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.*

C: **Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the Cross an off'ring. Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in Your suff'ring. You died our guilt to banish, That none in sin need perish! Grant us Your mercy, O Jesus!**

P: Thus says the Lord, "What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

R: *Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.*

C: **Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the Cross an off'ring. Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in Your suff'ring. You died our guilt to banish, That none in sin need perish! Grant us Your mercy, O Jesus!**

P: Thus says the Lord, "What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked

for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

R: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

C: Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the Cross an offering. Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in Your suffering. You died our guilt to banish, That none in sin need perish! Your peace be with us, O Jesus! Amen.

THE HARMONIZED GOSPEL OF THE PASSION

(This account takes all four Gospels and blends them together into a narrative of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus.)

LESSON: **At Gethsemane**

HYMN: 436, "Go To Dark Gethsemane", stanza 1

LESSON: **The Arrest**

HYMN: 436, "Go To Dark Gethsemane", stanza 2

LESSON: **At The Palace of the High Priest**

HYMN: 428, "Cross of Jesus", stanzas 1-2

LESSON: **Peter's Denial**

HYMN: 428, "Cross of Jesus", stanzas 3-4

LESSON: **At The Praetorium**

HYMN: 451, "Stricken, Smitten", stanzas 1-2

LESSON: **At Calvary**

HYMN: 451, "Stricken, Smitten", stanzas 3-4

THE SERMON

HYMN: 561, "The Tree of Life"

THE OFFERING

THE PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AS THE CONGREGATION EXITS

(No Postlude)



Faith Lutheran Church, Courtenay, BC
courtenay.lutheranchurchcanada.ca
Rev Roland Kubke, pastor