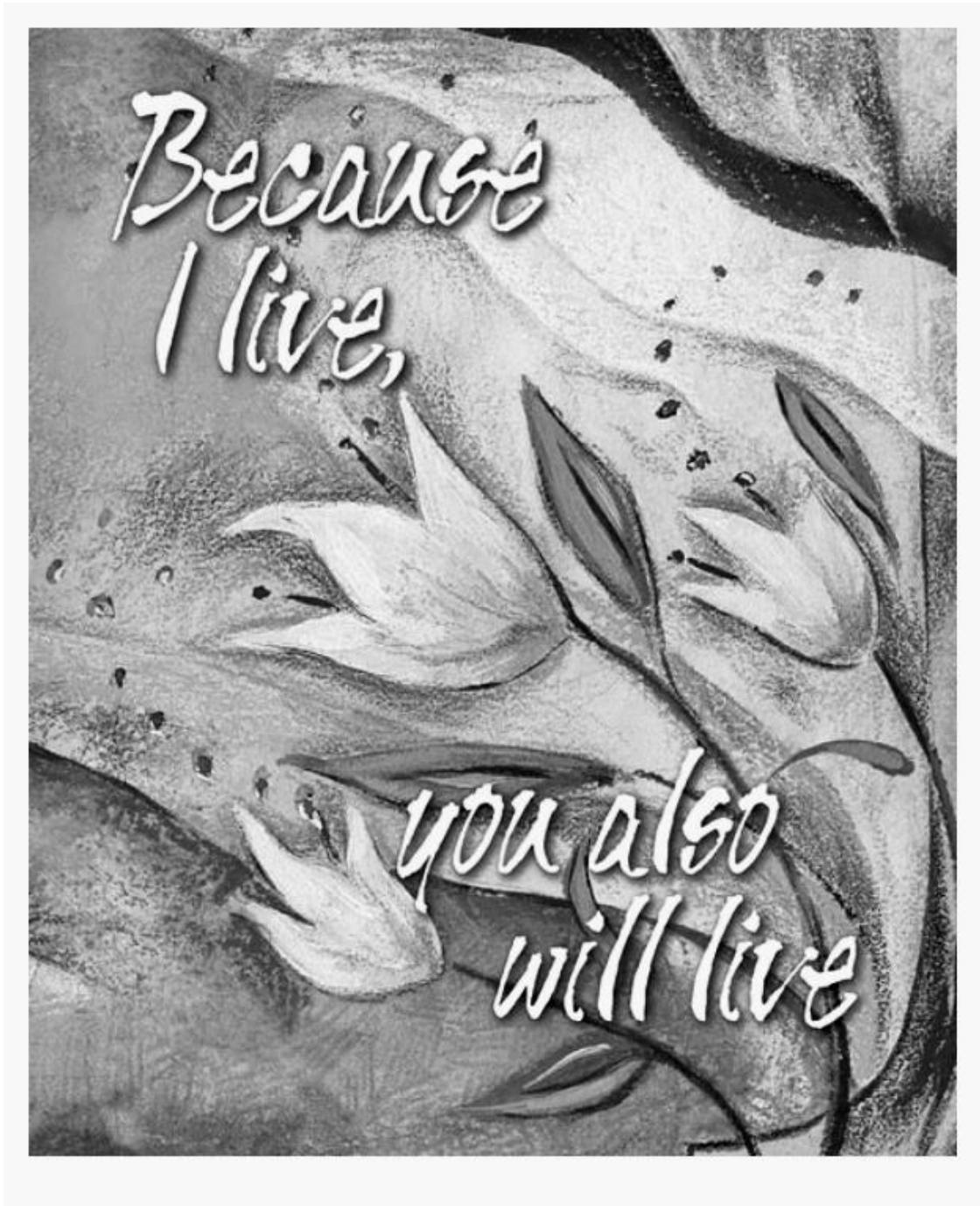


# EASTER SUNDAY

April 17th, 2022



## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
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**Prayer:** Almighty God, who by the death of Thy Son hast destroyed sin and death, and by His resurrection hast restored innocence and everlasting life, in order that, delivered from the power of the devil, we may live in Thy kingdom, grant unto us that we may believe this with our whole heart, and, steadfast in this faith, may praise and thank Thee evermore; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE: A prayer for peace in the midst of conflict.**

Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have been our life in the midst of death, and our peace where there is no peace. Look upon Your servants in Ukraine and Russia with Your grace and assure them that in the darkness of political unrest You remain the Light of the World.

Dearest Jesus, through the cross you defeated all that keeps us from the peace that passes understanding. In these tense days, we pray, be the Good Shepherd of Your flock in Eastern Europe and around the world and give all persons and countries aching from social and political turmoil Your Good News of sins forgiven, and life restored. Holy Spirit, You gather us into Your Church where we are made new by Your Holy Word. Keep us from civil strife, from the aggressive spilling of blood, and turn back all misfortunes that lead to hostility and death. Grant a speedy reconciliation to those on opposite sides of the conflict; soften the hearts of the unmerciful and bring them to the knowledge of You. Triune God, grant peace in our world, especially in Ukraine and Russia, and in Your whole Church on earth, that with one heart and mind we may sing Your praises, and have peace at the last, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Acts 10: 34-43                      Wed.: Acts 3: 12-20                      Friday: 1 Pet. 3:18-22  
Tuesday: Acts 13: 6a,26-33                      Thurs: Acts 8: 26-40                      Saturday: 1 Pet. 2: 1-10

**Children’s Message: Psalm 118: 1** <https://youtu.be/aLJJIpkhioE>

**Organist:** Louise Gondosch  
**Readers:** 9 a.m. — Paul Mason                      11 a.m. — Paul Wachs  
**Greeters:** 9 a.m. --- Frank & Ivy Parkhouse                      11 a.m. ---

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Please note there will be NO Sunday School today, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Please join us between services for our Easter Pancake Breakfast. Everyone is welcome!

**MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE:** We know each of us should all be working to memorize God's Word! You are invited to listen to our Children’s Messages where we are focusing on understanding and memorizing a Psalm verse each week. This week is Psalm 118: 1

**WORSHIP NOTE:**

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq>).
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland ([chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca)) or Pastor Todd ([pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)). or phone the church office (905-685-8294). May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

**MARY MARTHA:** Please feel free to join us on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. for a devotion, brief business meeting, quilting and cutting stamps for missions.

**Women's Bible Study:** Have you ever thought about the central role the table plays in the lives of Christians? The Bible is full of references about food, drink, eating, and fellowship. Jesus knew the power of the table and used it to teach and embody truth about himself. When we sit down for a meal with others, we get to know them better while we nourish our bodies and souls. In this seven-session series, complete with simple yet delicious recipes, Bianca Juárez Olthoff leads us through Jesus' interactions around the table, inspiring us to invite people into our homes, open the Word of God, and break bread together. We hope you will consider joining us in person, here at the church on **Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (April 22nd)** or watch this study entitled "**Table Talks**" yourself at [rightnowmedia.org](http://rightnowmedia.org).

**SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE:** Wednesday, April 27th, 6 - 6:30 p.m. Resurrection Lutheran Church -- The Elders of Resurrection Lutheran Church, St. Catharines invite you to join them in a brief service of prayer, this time focusing on the war in Ukraine, our Missionary Oleksiy Navrotsky, and his fellow workers. Plan to pause your day for just half an hour and join us in the seminary chapel to lay these concerns before our heavenly Father. Any offerings given will go to Lutheran Church-Canada's Ukraine Aid Fund, from which they are sent directly to our Lutheran pastors in Ukraine who distribute aid where needed.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Rev. Dr. John Nunes, former president of Concordia College, Bronxville NY, originally from Hamilton, ON [who preached for Pastor Todd's installation] will be coming to Christ Lutheran on **MAY 24!** From 7-9 PM he is giving a "book talk" work shop style in the sanctuary on his 2020 paperback, "MEANT FOR MORE". Pastor Todd has some copies to share with any who would like to read ahead before he arrives. More information yet to come. ALL ARE WELCOME

**LWML-Canada, Ontario District, Niagara Zone,** is hosting our District Convention in St. Catharines at Grace Lutheran Church (accommodation at Niagara College) on June 9 to 11th, 2022. More details will follow. If at all possible, please plan to attend. It is a wonderful time to get to know and renew friendships with our sisters in Christ from around the province! It is a time to focus on "**Joy, Patience, Prayer**" which is the theme of the Convention. (Romans 12:12) *Our Seminary Student Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniella will be our wonderful entertainment for Friday evening!*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:** Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.** The theme for the gathering is "**IN NOT OF**" from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY>

<b><u>Last Sunday Attendance: April 10th, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – ; 11 A.M. – ; Total:</u></b>					
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Weekly Need</u></b>	<b><u>Last Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>Year To Date</u></b>	<b><u>+ or – (--)</u></b>
Current:	233,400.00	4,488.46	2,625.00	58,922.79	(22,795.77)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	384.62	110.00	4,018.00	( 1,751.23)
Property Improvement:			60.00	1,847.00	

**FLOWERS** have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Andy & Bette Vasko and family in loving memory of Mary Vasko.

**WE THANK** the following people for purchasing an Easter Lily to beautify our church for today's

**Easter services:**

Susan Honey: In loving memory of her mother, Evelyn Corman  
Naomi Hohnberg: In loving memory of her mother, Doris Hohnberg  
Rev. John & Linda Makey: In loving memory of their parents, Earl & Jean Makey and Norman & Phyllis Smith  
Paul & Judy Mason: In Thankfulness for Our Lord Jesus` resurrection  
John & Louise Gondosch: In Thankfulness for our family and friends  
In Memory of family members  
Gloria Meyer: In Memory of her parents  
Steve Duga: In loving memory of his brother John, and son Michael  
Howard Bogusat: To the Glory of God  
Lorraine Kaija: In loving memory of her sister, Julie Whittard and thankfulness for family  
Dave Whittard & family: In loving memory of their wife, mother and grandmother, Julie Whittard  
Bill & Debbie Dolha: To the Glory of God

**EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED:** we continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of Worshippers at entrance and Covid Protocol Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles

Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided]  
We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

**GREETERS:** - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.



**THE MARY MARTHA** is collecting items for Medical Missions that they will take to the Ingathering at the LWML District Convention this coming June, we invite everyone to help by adding items to the container sitting on the Narthex Table. Below is a list of supplies which Medical Missions use on an ongoing basis. Please ensure that you check expire dates to ensure that the dates are well into the future:

Monetary Gifts made payable to "Christ Lutheran Church" and placed in an envelope designated for "LWML Ontario District Medical Missions". Everything appreciated with Thanks

- Antibiotic Ointment (Polysporin, etc.)
- Vicks VapoRub
- Tylenol, Advil, Acetaminophen for Adults and Childen
- Disposable Gloves
- Vitamins for Adults and Children
- Zinc Oxide/Diaper Rash Cream
- Antihistamines – Benadryl
- Q-Tips
- Voltarin (Arthritic Ointment)
- Band Aids/Adhesive Tape
- ACE Elastic Bandages

**REV. TODD HOEFFS**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11: 28-32**

**Title: "Worthiness?"**

**April 14, 2022 + 7 PM**

**F, S + HS. Amen.**

There's a lot to be said about being comfortable in one's own skin. I think it was Greek philosophers who coined the phrase "know thyself"? Identity is something I spent time discussing in Youth Catechism classes. So many things pull us into all sorts of directions, it's hard to know who we are. Living day to day can be difficult enough without overcoming those insecure personal obstacles. I'm part of that generation x taught we could DO and BE anything we wanted. Be educated. Follow your dreams. Get a University degree & you're set for life in any job you want. We know how that works out in reality don't we!? So who thinks of being "worthy" any longer? Most people are surprised when they're met with expectations. We as Christians often feel deserving. The more bruises we receive from life's fists the more deserving we feel. We're survivors. We've been there, done that. We expect God to treat us...better?! Give us a break. Worthiness implies something good about you or that it makes us suited to a situation. In an era where churches are boarding up their stained glass windows and locking the doors of once full sanctuaries, who would dare deem any new seeker "not worthy"? Our Lord's mandate tonight after showing His disciples how to wash feet is simply "love one another as I have loved you." It's a fuller, more inspiring teaching that what had stood in place for generations, Love God, love your neighbour as yourself. Now, love as Jesus loves.

Give as He gives to you. A deeply sacrificial love -- not counting the cost.

The holy command. Which is why tonight is Maundy. From Mandatum in the Latin. A new command to love in new and daring ways. Wash feet like Jesus. Help and never judge the need.

It's a faith based willingness to serve in any lowly or humble task. Worthiness isn't achievable.

It's given. God's gift of faith in Baptism makes you worthy. Unless Jesus washes us, we have no part in Him. Unless we eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood we have no life in us.

Apostle Paul addresses the worthiness when believers receive Holy Communion. His letter to the church in Corinth often gets viewed that there must be a rigorous test for worthiness. That a person must examine themselves in an outward way that proves an allegiance to the church's teachings. No human test could prove our worthiness before God. Even if someone could memorize the Bible & Catechism that wouldn't necessarily prove they had worthiness any more than it shows they have faith. Paul dealt with a kind of destructive un-Christian behaviour in his church. He was less concerned about what they knew, but rather the ways they chose not to live out their faith.

Some of the Corinthians Christians had been making fools of themselves by getting drunk at communion time. Such eating and drinking is careless, thoughtless and begs for God's condemning judgement. The Greek and Roman world had extreme social class systems.

When they ate as house guests, the rich and powerful got served the best and the largest amounts of food and drink. The rest got served what was left over. As Paul is addressing this in a house church style of gathering, those high on the social ladder could easily overindulge in bread and wine.

A distinct pecking order existed, like seniority in the workplace. These differences created factions. Never mind considering worthiness, They're forgetting that the bread and wine of Communion isn't meant for overconsumption. That's wrong. That is unworthy. Such behaviours need self-examination. It's causing physical harm and spiritual division. What can Paul do but recite the Lord's own action and words the night of the original Holy Communion.

That last Passover night. That night of Jesus' betrayal. After washing tired, smelly feet. Jesus says "THIS BREAD IS MY BODY GIVEN FOR YOU" - by the same hands which fed multitudes & a Body that would soon be cut open, nailed, crowned & bled for the world.

"THIS CUP IS MY BLOOD"—Blood soon to fall as drops of red sweat in Gethsemane's garden And would run down the wood of the cross. This Bread and Cup is New Covenant in Jesus Who binds hearts together with faith and creates worthiness.

Jesus did not say "This Cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for "SOME OF YOU"."  
Remember, Judas Iscariot reclined at the table with the Lord. Judas ate the meal of the One he sold into the hands of evil men for blood money. Simply because Jesus' Body & Blood is given and shed for ALL PEOPLE. Jesus offers a new Passover. He is the 1<sup>st</sup> born who dies and rises.  
His blood is painted on the posts and lintels of our hearts with faith to believe this.  
Jesus IS the NEW PASSOVER LAMB Whose Blood washes away all sins from every person of the world. Now, everyone is welcome into God's loving embrace by faith in Christ.  
This is why He ate and drank with people considered sinners and outcasts. Jesus' own eating and drinking with people signifies all are welcome and accepted into His Kingdom!  
All people are radically changed by His awesome grace. For truth be told, no one IS worthy.  
No one DESERVES God's mercy and love. No one has done anything that would make God accept them. Not me, not you, no one. We waste time worrying that God keeps a record of sin and that no matter what we do or don't do, it'll all be unveiled and we'll be doomed. We're afraid God will catch on to our act and expose us, make us vulnerable, show our frailties. So Paul presents Christ crucified in the Bread and Wine! And every time we celebrate this meal we show Jesus' death to the world until He returns. In showing this, He is showing our Saviour. We can only be worthy with an active believing, living, trusting faith that can be seen by all we meet. For then with Jesus Body and Blood in us we are Christ to the world. Martin Luther wrote in the Catechism that "he or she if fully prepared to receive Holy Communion WHO BELIEVES IN THE WORDS 'GIVEN AND SHED FOR YOU FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS'".  
Faith believes this. Your faith believes and trusts in the Lord's promise. No matter who you are or what you've done, Christ has made you worthy with faith.  
You don't have to worry. It's not what but WHO makes you worthy. Jesus Christ!  
Suffering servant, foot washer, cross bearer and living Lord  
Who is given out in the Bread and Wine for your complete forgiveness.  
Jesus loves you.  
He keeps no score of wrongs.  
He washes all feet.  
He paints all people with His Son's Blood.  
You are worthy.  
Amen.

**REV. TODD HOEFFS**  
**Good Friday STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**John 19:28-30 -- It is finished**

**“My God, My God, Why have You forsaken Me...”**

**“It is finished...”**

**“Into Your hands I commit My Spirit....” “And He breathed His last....”**

We wonder why Jesus’ ministry had to end this way. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? Alone. Pain, suffering, agony beyond human comprehension. They are very reasonable questions, but they’re not questions for those who believe and understand what Jesus promised. Like Disciple Peter for example. Jesus prophesied that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter objected and said, “Never, Lord –this will never happen to you!”

But did Peter hear Jesus properly?

It is very likely that Peter didn’t hear fully what Jesus said.

It is likely that once he heard Jesus say that he must be killed that he stopped paying attention.

And that’s what death does. When we hear about death, especially about the death of someone we love, it can also make us wonder why. Why does life end? Why is it necessary to die? Why did they leave me all alone? But Peter needed to hear Jesus and the totality of His word: that after he was killed, on the third day he would be raised to life. But even as Christians we don’t always think of that when confronting death.

We don’t automatically think of eternal life when someone we love dies.

We are usually so grief stricken that we cannot see past the reality of death.

The 1<sup>st</sup> funeral I attended for family members was for a great uncle. My grandpa’s brother-in-law. His wife couldn’t believe her husband died. She harboured guilt. The day before he died he was backing his car out of the garage and accidentally bumped her as she stood outside the garage. It was an accident, she wasn’t hurt, but she laced into him something fierce with foul language and all. The next day he died. Found him in his favourite chair. While he laid in the casket my great aunt actually tried climbing into it, peeling open his eyes, crying out “wake up Bill. Get up. Get outta there....” She never truly recovered....We must not grieve as those who have no hope.

We have hope. We are a people of hope. We know a better world awaits which doesn’t have any sin or death. Hope. And hope never disappoints us.

Even when St Paul speaks of Christ’s victory over death says....Where, O death, is your sting?”

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Death stings. When we fall, when we make the wrong choice, when we say the wrong words, think the wrong things, give in to our weaknesses, we feel the STING...

It bites. “There he goes again, doing the same wrong thing over and over and over again...”

These, and all the many other difficulties we face, be it sickness or job loss or divorce or broken friendships all sting of death....but nothing like the actual DEATH itself.

And that sting is evident every time we sit at the bedside of a loved one –as we watch the coffin lowered into the grave, as we visit the gravesite of our loved ones –the sting of grief in death remains. Death no longer has a hold over us because of Jesus’ death and resurrection...

We have hope because we know that the grave will not hold Jesus for long. We know that on the third day that he will rise. Just as He said.

But those 3 days are so long when it’s someone we love.

Even though we know that we will be reunited with all our loved ones as we await the resurrection, it is so hard because the grief is so deep. Questioning God's love because of death is normal for humans like us but it never removes the sting of death from our experience.

Death is a reality of life.

The only way to truly find comfort in death is hearing Jesus talk about His own death.

On the third day He will be raised to life.

Without death there's no resurrection.

Without Jesus' resurrection, we can never see death in any other way than an horrific painful separation.

Even Jesus' own death is meaningless without that final part that Peter missed –on the third day He' rise to life again!

To outsiders, a battered and broken Jesus hanging on a cross, bloody and in anguish, who could no longer hold his head up and died in humiliation and defeat could not possibly be anything but a reminder of the pain and finality of death and no hope at all.

Crucifixion is a terrible way to go. So much pain, suffering, fighting to breath, half or completely naked, shameful, cursed. Crucified Jesus is left alone for dead. For those moments of sheer torture, as nail into the hands and feet kept a victim gasping for air as he slid up and down on the cross, JESUS IS ALONE.

He had to be. God turned His back on Jesus, filled to the very core of His being with all human sin from every time and generation....so He could BE OUR SIN, carry the weight, the damage, the hurt, the ugliness of evil, the rebellion, the fallenness of our human story....all ALONE.

We have left God, He never leaves us.

He is with us forever. This is Good Friday's hope.

Now we have an advocate, the Holy Spirit, Who keeps us tied to Christ crucified. For the true Son of God has completed his great work of defeating sin and death and He cries out "it is finished".

But what is finished?

Death's victory is finished.

The devil's hold on humanity is shattered.

The fate of eternal separation from God is removed.

"The message of the cross if foolishness to those who are dying...but to us who are being saved it's the power & wisdom of God."

So what's the power? What's the wisdom? That we who live in Christ die and rise in Him. We will be raised to life forever in Heaven too.

Jesus finished the ancient plan to save the world through dying.

So that you and I can have forgiveness and new life.

He's given us the victory over death He Himself achieved.

Alone. Because no one else could do what He did.

The Law wasn't enough. The Commands didn't make people change. The prophets couldn't covert the multitudes.

Even blood spilled from new unblemished lambs couldn't cover over the decay of sin.

Jesus' Blood covers up everything. Like love, it covers multitudes of sins. In fact our sins are removed, erased when Jesus' Blood is painted on our lives.

As in Baptism.

Washed in water and the Word bringing Jesus' cross directly into the saving bath.



We're transported to Jesus' cross, given a front row seat at Calvary, but don't have to suffer the pain and torture. We get the blessings of His cross, the life-blessings. Just as trees in spring time bear wonderful fruits, so from the wood of Jesus' cross burst forth life in the Sacraments of grace. Baptism & Holy Communion splash out of Jesus' pierced side, creating all people's entry in to life with God.

Here the church is born.

Where Jesus is, His gifts are given.

Still, thanks be to God, in Christ, IT IS FINISHED.

This is the JOY of GOOD FRIDAY.

When the Lord has done it, nothing more remains to be done.

We don't have any completing work to do.

He's done all the work.

Death is nothing to fear.

He has answered for all of our sins.

Life is a gift. His gift to give.

We don't complete it.

We don't make it for sure.

It's all ours, from Jesus- for sure, complete - in His cry, "It is finished!"

Amen.