***THE EASTER CODE***

**Lenten Worship Series – Good Friday**

***Code Word:* Sacrifice**

**April 7, 2023**

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**SEach worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Sermon manuscripts are included as a *sample* and not to be preached verbatim. |

**[*Project below words on screen as people enter*]**

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| ***Code Word:* Sacrifice*****No sacrifice that you and I will ever make is as great*** ***as the sacrifice that was made for us and for our redemption.*** |

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| **SB#167 – Hail, Thou once despisèd Jesus**  | TB-370 – Hyfrydol | HTD1-T14 (3 vs.) |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#89/HC#161/SS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing (My Great Redeemer’s Praise)** | TB-59 – AzmonTB-75 – GrimsbyHC-161SS-48 | HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)No HT CDHCD15-T11 |
| **SB#231/SS#52 – Praise Him! Praise Him!**  | TB-799 – same SS-52 | HTD6-T15 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#241 – And can it be**  | TB-445 – Sagina  | HTD4-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#242 – Arise, my soul, arise**  | TB-200 – Darwalls  | HTD1-T7 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#421/HC#301/SS#80 – Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power (Are You Washed)** | TB-557 – sameHC-301SS-80 | HTD7-T2 (3 vs.)HCD29-T11 |
| **SB#451/HC#71/SS#107 – Would you be free (Power in the Blood)** | TB-945 – Wonder-working powerHC-71SS-107 | No HT CDHCD6-T11  |
| **SB#466/HC#105/SS#32 – I stand amazed in the presence (How Marvelous)** | TB-769 – My Savior’s loveHC-105SS-32 | HTD10-T8 (4 vs.)HCD9-T15 |
| **SB#861/HC#149/SS#41 – In Christ alone**  | TB-132 – same HC-149SS-41 | No HT CDHCD13-T19 |
| **HC#162 – The Power of the Cross** | HC-162 | HCD15-T12 |
| **HC#248 – Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)** | HC-248 | HCD23-T18 |
| **SB#223/HC#278 – I know he rescued my soul (My Redeemer Lives)** | TB-768 – sameHC-278 | No HT CDHCD26-T18 |
| **HC#294 – Glorious Day** | HC-294 | HCD28-T14 |

**Call to Worship:**

No sacrifice that you and I will ever make is as great as the sacrifice that was made for us and for our redemption.

**Reader 1:** Sacrifice.

**Reader 2:** Everyone makes sacrifices**---**

for physical beauty,

for body health,

for athletic victory,

for career advancement,

for relational unity,

for sound investment,

for a physical dwelling,

for the hope of fame,

for parental love,

for spiritual growth,

for environmental health

for political power,

for a noble cause,

for a dark addiction,

for the cause of peace,

for liberation from bondage,

for making a point,

for exposing an evil,

for meeting a need,

for offering mercy,

for settling a score,

for extending a hand.

**Reader 1:** Every day sacrifices are made.

Everyone does it.

No one can avoid it.

Life requires it.

Good calls you to it.

Evil demands it.

**Reader 2:** Sometimes we’re willing.

Sometimes we’re resistant.

Sometimes we regret it.

Sometimes we sacrifice with great joy,

sometimes with deep sorrow,

sometimes in the bright light,

sometimes in the darkness of night,

sometimes private,

sometimes public,

**Reader 1:** the young and the old,

men and women,

girls and boys,

of every language,

of every ethnicity,

from every place on the globe,

from every period of history.

But in all of those places,

with all of these people,

in all of those epochs of time,

with innumerable sacrifices,

**Reader 2:** there is only one man

who had sacrifice as his solitary purpose.

There was only one man

whose sacrifice would meet everyone’s need.

There was only one man

who paid for what he did not do

so others would get what they did not earn.

There was only one man

who was qualified.

There was only one man

who was the God-man,

Son of God,

Son of Man.

**Reader 1:** There was only one man

who would live a righteous life.

There was only one man who would die an acceptable death.

There was only one man

who would satisfy God’s requirement.

There was only one man

who would not only make that sacrifice

but who would be that sacrifice.

There was only one man

who would be the Lamb of God.

There was only one man

whose sacrifice would change everything.

**Reader 2:** Sin defeated.

Life given.

Hope restored.

God and man reconciled,

once for all,

“It is finished.”

Billions of sacrifices made;

only one sacrifice

for life now

and for all eternity.

(*Journey to the Cross*, pp. 133-136)

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| **HC#162 – The Power of the Cross** | HC-162 | HCD15-T12 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#32/HC#127 – How deep the Father’s love for us** | TB-663 – sameHC-27 | No HT CDHCD11-T17 |
| **SB#49/HC#274 – O Lord, my God (How Great Thou Art!)** | TB-488 – sameHC-274 | HTD1-T12 (4 vs.)HCD26-T14 |
| **SB#160/HC#184 – Behold! Behold the Lamb of God**  | TB-290 – sameHC-184 | No HT CDHCD17-T14 |
| **SB#182/HC#12/SS#121 – Lord, make Calvary real to me**  | TB-741 – same HC-12SS-121 | No HT CDHCD1B-T12 |
| **SB#183 – Man of sorrows!** | TB-754 – same | No HT CD |
| **SB#208/SS#63 – When I survey the wondrous cross**  | TB-875 – The wonderful cross HC-94 – Lamb of God (use vs. 2 as chorus)SS-63 | No HT CDHCD8-T14 |

**Invocation**

***The Crucifixion of Jesus***

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:32-44**

[Scripture can be read by one person, split up into a responsive reading, or as a “readers’ theater using *The Voice* version - <https://www.biblegateway.com/> ]

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| **SB#208/SS#63 – When I survey the wondrous cross**  | TB-875 – The wonderful cross HC-94 – Lamb of God (use vs. 2 as chorus)SS-63 | No HT CDHCD8-T14 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#32/HC#127 – How deep the Father’s love for us** | TB-663 – sameHC-27 | No HT CDHCD11-T17 |
| **SB#182/HC#12 – Lord, make Calvary real to me**  | TB-741 – same HC-12 | No HT CDHCD1-T12 |
| **SB#190 – O sacred head once wounded** | TB-226 – Passion Chorale | No HT CD |
| **HC#94/SS#97 – Lamb of God** | HC-94SS-97 | HCD8-T14 |

***The Death of Jesus***

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:45-54**

[Scripture can be read by one person, split up into a responsive reading, or as a “readers’ theater using *The Voice* version - <https://www.biblegateway.com/> ]

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| **HC#136 – We All Bow Down**  | HC-136 | HCD12-T16 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#32/HC#127 – How deep the Father’s love for us** | TB-663 – sameHC-127 | No HT CDHCD11-T17 |
| **SB#178/SS#95 – Jesus, keep me near the cross**  | TB-238 – Near the crossSS-95TB-237 – Healing Stream | HTD2-T5 (3 vs.)HTD5-T8 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#179 – King of my life, I crown Thee now** | TB-89 – Lead me to Calvary | HTD9-T8 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#182/HC#12/SS#121 – Lord, make Calvary real to me**  | TB-741 – same HC-12SS-121 | No HT CDHCD1B-T12 |
| **SB#190 – O sacred head once wounded** | TB-226 – Passion Chorale | No HT CD |
| **SB#208/SS#63 – When I survey the wondrous cross**  | TB-875 – The wonderful cross HC-94 – Lamb of God (use vs. 2 as chorus)SS-63 | No HT CDHCD8-T14 |
| **SB#376/HC#219 – King of kings, majesty**  | TB-722 – sameHC-219 | No HT CDHCD20-T19 |

***Surely, He Was the Son of God!***

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| **Drama – A Change of Heart** |

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| **SB#182/HC#12/SS#121 – Lord, make Calvary real to me**  | TB-741 – same HC-12SS-121 | No HT CDHCD1B-T12 |

**Devotional – *What is Your Response?***

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| **SB#769 – Jesus, see me at Thy feet****HC#98 – Nothing but Thy Blood** | TB-289 – Nothing but Thy bloodHC-98 | No HT CDHCD8-T18 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#32/HC#127 – How deep the Father’s love for us** | TB-663 – SameHC-27 | No HT CDHCD11-T17 |
| **SB#49/HC#274 – O Lord my God (How Great Thou Art!)** | TB-488 – sameHC-274 | HTD1-T12 (4 vs.)HCD26-T14 |
| **SB#178/SS#95 – Jesus, keep me near the cross**  | TB-238 – Near the crossSS-95TB-237 – Healing Stream | HTD2-T5 (3 vs.)HTD5-T8 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#179 – King of my life, I crown Thee now** | TB-89 – Lead me to Calvary | HTD9-T8 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#182/HC#12/SS#121 – Lord, make Calvary real to me**  | TB-741 – same HC-12SS-121 | No HT CDHCD1B-T12 |
| **SB#201/HC#137/SS#66 – Thank you for the cross, Lord (Worthy Is the Lamb)** | TB-947 – sameHC-137SS-66 | No HT CDHCD12-T17 |
| **HC#123/SS#55 – Shine on Us** | HC-123SS-55 | HCD11-T13 |
| **HC#128 – My Tribute**  | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |
| **HC#226 – I Worship You**  | HC-226 | HCD21-T16 |

***Respond in Gratitude***

**Leader:** God’s grace unleashes into your life blessings that are too many to number. No matter what difficulties you are facing, they are outweighed by the storehouse of blessings that are yours in Christ Jesus. No one is more worthy of your gratitude than your generous, loving, faithful, wise and gracious Savior.

**Reader 1:** So many blessings,

 so many graces,

 so many gifts,

so much love.

**Reader 2:** There is no rational explanation;

there is no human reason;

there is no scientific formula;

no evolutionary theory;

no political machinations;

no cultural privilege;

no chance;

no fate;

nothing earned;

nothing achieved;

nothing deserved;

no right;

no entitlement;

no family inheritance;

no rite of passage;

no reward for work one;

no prize for achievement;

no deserved recognition.

**Reader 1:** There is a miracle operating here;

there is amazing favor;

there is unprecedented mercy;

there is boundless love;

there is only one explanation;

there is but one rationale.

**Reader 2:** Blood was shed

**Reader 1:** outside the city walls,

a perfect man with the criminal element

nailed to a torture tree,

hung there by those he made.

**Reader 2:** No words of defense,

no actions of resistance.

**Reader 1:** Favored Son,

now willing sufferer,

carrying the sin of multitudes.

**Reader 2:** Mocked by onlookers

forsaken by the Father,

willing Lamb, acceptable sacrifice,

planned from eternity,

accomplished in time,

**Reader 1:** so I would know

so many blessings,

so many graces,

so many gifts,

so much love.

(*Journey to the Cross*, pp 117-120)

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| **HC#128 – My Tribute**  | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#32/HC#127 – How deep the Father’s love for us** | TB-663 – SameHC-27 | No HT CDHCD11-T17 |
| **SB#49/HC#274 – O Lord my God (How Great Thou Art!)** | TB-488 – sameHC-274 | HTD1-T12 (4 vs.)HCD26-T14 |
| **SB#178/SS#95 – Jesus, keep me near the cross**  | TB-238 – Near the crossSS-95TB-237 – Healing Stream | HTD2-T5 (3 vs.)HTD5-T8 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#179 – King of my life, I crown Thee now** | TB-89 – Lead me to Calvary | HTD9-T8 (4 vs.) |
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| **SB#769 – Jesus, see me at Thy feet****HC#98 – Nothing but Thy Blood** | TB-289 – Nothing but Thy bloodHC-98 | No HT CDHCD8-T18 |
| **HC#123/SS#55 – Shine on Us** | HC-123SS-55 | HCD11-T13 |
| **HC#226 – I Worship You**  | HC-226 | HCD21-T16 |

**Prayers of Thanksgiving [*open to congregation*]**

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| **SB#201/HC#137/SS#66 – Thank you for the cross, Lord (Worthy Is the Lamb)** | TB-947 – sameHC-137SS-66 | No HT CDHCD12-T17 |

**Benediction:**

By his stripes we are healed.
By his wounds, we are made whole.
Go in the name of Jesus Christ
and live in the salvation made possible
by the Goodness of this Friday. Amen.

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| **Lent 2022 – Good Friday** |
| **DRAMA****A Change of Heart****By Martyn Scott Thomas**© Copyright 2003 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. |
| **Topic:** | Good Friday |
| **Scripture:** | Matthew 27:27-31 |
| **Synopsis:** | Two centurions discuss the beating of Jesus before his crucifixion. |
| **Characters:** | Marcus – Centurion 1Anthony – Centurion 2 |
| **Props/Costumes:** | A bench or cot, a duffel bag or knapsack, extra clothes. Marcus and Anthony should wear neutral color plain (off-duty) clothes. |
| **Setting:** | A Roman barracks. |
| **Running time:** | 3 minutes |

[*Marcus is sitting on his cot, packing his clothes into a bag. Anthony enters.*]

**Anthony:** Marcus, here you are. I’ve been looking all over for you. What are you doing?

**Marcus:** I’m packing up my stuff and I’m leaving.

**Anthony:** Leaving? You can’t leave. They’ll kill you.

**Marcus:** That’s a chance I’m willing to take.

**Anthony:** [*sits down and tries to unpack Marcus’s bag*] I won’t let you do this.

**Marcus:** I’m sorry, my friend, but my mind is made up. I can’t do this anymore.

**Anthony:** What are you talking about? You’ve worked all your life to be one of Rome’s finest. You’re the bravest soldier I know.

**Marcus:** Was. I *was* the bravest soldier. Not anymore.

**Anthony:** What’s happened? I’ve never heard you talk like this before.

**Marcus:** I’m not sure what’s going on. I’ve just been doing a lot of thinking since the other night.

**Anthony:** The other night? You mean that Jew?

**Marcus:** Yes, that Jew. I just can’t get him out of my mind.

**Anthony:** That was quite the beating we gave him. It’s been a while since the governor has let us really go off on someone. I can’t ever remember that many soldiers beating just one man.

**Marcus:** It was the whole company.

**Anthony:** But why should that bother you? As I recall, you were getting in your licks pretty good. How many times did you hit him?

**Marcus:** I can’t remember.

**Anthony:** I’m sure it was plenty. It’s not like you were cheated out of your share of the beating.

**Marcus:** That’s the problem. I hit him more than anyone.

**Anthony:** Then why are you complaining? You’re the strongest soldier in the company. You got to beat a Jew nearly to death. I don’t understand your problem.

**Marcus:** Did you look at him?

**Anthony:** It wasn’t a pretty sight.

**Marcus:** No did you really look at him?

**Anthony:** Marcus, you know that we aren’t supposed to make eye contact with the criminals.

**Marcus:** I couldn’t help myself. As I was beating that man, I had to look in his eyes.

**Anthony:** And what did you see?

**Marcus:** He was looking at me. No, he was looking into me. It was like he could see into my soul…

**Anthony:** You were hallucinating. His eyes were glazed over from the beating. He wouldn’t have been able to focus on anything.

**Marcus:** No, he was definitely looking at me. He knew who I was, and he knew what I was doing. And yet, there was no hate in his eyes.

**Anthony:** You’re talking nonsense.

**Marcus:** He should’ve hated me. He should’ve despised me. But it was almost as if he was forgiving me as I beat him. Like he deserved the beating.

**Anthony:** Guilty men do.

**Marcus:** No, this was something else. He was forgiving me for everything that I am – for everything I’ve done. Everything.

**Anthony:** [*stands to exit*] My friend, you are greatly overworked. I’m going to talk to the Captain and get you some vacation time. You need to get away for a while.

**Marcus:** I need to get away all right. [*stands and picks up bag*] But, I’m not coming back.

**Anthony:** If you desert this company, they will hunt you down and you will be executed.

**Marcus:** I know the risk that I’m taking, but my mind is made up. I need to find out more about this man. I need to know more about Jesus. [*exits*]

[*Blackout*]

***THE EASTER CODE***

**Lenten Sermon – Good Friday**

***Code Word:* Sacrifice**

**April 7, 2023**

**TITLE: *What is Your Response?***

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27:32-54**

**THEME: Sacrifice**

**INTRODUCTION**

I have a question for you: What is your response to the crucified Jesus that we have read about in Matthew 27?

**POINT(S)**

On this Good Friday I want us to look at the reaction of the people who passed by Jesus as He was hanging on the cross. In Matthew chapter 27:32-54, we see many groups of people who have different responses to what they saw. Let’s begin by looking at **Matthew 27:32-38** to get some context. [**Read**]

In verse **39-40**, we see the first group who pass by Jesus on the cross. [**Read**]

This first response we see is from a group of people who witness Jesus Christ hanging on the cross. As they pass by, they respond with taunts and hurl insults at Him. This would not have been uncommon for those who passed by a crucifixion scene.

In verses **41-43**, we encounter the next group who respond to Jesus hanging on the cross. [**Read**]

As we see in these verses, the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders mock him: *“He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself!”*  He is supposed to be the “King of the Jews”; let him come down from the cross and we will believe in Him.

This is a confirmation of what many Jews expected of Jesus, the Savior on earth. Many wanted Him to be the one who would save the Jews from the Roman Empiric Rule, therefore becoming the human savior—for political and empirical freedom. This also was the group who plotted against Jesus throughout His ministry on earth. These chief priests and elders are the ones who would have known the Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah, and who would know about all the things that had been written about a Savior. Instead of seeing these fulfilled in Jesus, they taunted Him and mocked Him, *“Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him"* (v. 42). They were driven by their own greed and lust for power.

How often in our lives do we look for the power of Jesus first, before we believe? Or rely on our strength, and then ask where God is? This is where the chief priests and the teachers of the law got it wrong. They wanted a Savior who would uphold the rules and agree with their way of religious rule and law.

However, we read of Jesus the Savior throughout the gospels as one who came with a message of grace and peace and truth.

In **Matthew 27:44**, we see the third group who witness and respond to the crucifixion of Jesus.

[**Read**]

Like those who passed by, and the religious leaders of the day, the robbers also heap insults on Him. For the two thieves who were crucified with Jesus, they knew why they were there. They hung as a consequence for their actions. Jesus was hanging as a blameless sacrifice, yet still they heaped insults on him.

Three times we see three groups of people respond to Jesus hanging on the cross. Let’s read what happens next in **Matthew 27:45-53.** [**Read**]

So, we have seen how three groups responded to Jesus as He hung on the cross. However, there is another group who respond to the now crucified Jesus in this passage. This fourth group is found in **verse 54.** [**Read**]

The centurion and those who were with him had seen thousands of deaths by crucifixions, but none had the effect on physical elements around them as Jesus’ death (as we just read). The final response to Jesus on the cross by the centurion and those with Him was one of amazement and the realization of who Jesus really was—the Son of God. The realization of the Savior Jesus, the King of the Jews, full of power through His life, His death and ultimately His resurrection!

**CHALLENGE**

So, what is your response to the crucified Jesus of Matthew 27? Are you still hurling insults at the seemingly powerless, crucified Jesus who is hanging and suffering on a cross, powerless to help others let alone himself? Or are you ready to believe in the Jesus whom the centurion believed in as the Son of God, the one who defeated death and is all-powerful; whose Spirit is promised to be with all those who believe, to experience freedom and forgiveness and hope?

Today is the day that you can know that Hope. Today is the day to ask Jesus to be a part of your life and acknowledge Him as your Savior, the powerful Son of the living God.