

SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

GUIDED

*to the*

CROSS



GUIDED TO  
SACRIFICE

SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

# GUIDED *to the* CROSS

## GUIDED TO SACRIFICE

### COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-vector/jesus-christ-carrying-cross-his-crucifixion-1694855842](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/jesus-christ-carrying-cross-his-crucifixion-1694855842)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins,  
he sat down at the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:12*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Southwell SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O perfect life of love!  
All, all, is finished now,  
All that he left his throne above  
To do for us below.

No work is left undone  
Of all the Father willed;  
His toil, his sorrows, one by one.  
The Scriptures have fulfilled.

And on his thorn-crowned head  
And on his sinless soul  
Our sins in all their guilt were laid  
That he might make us whole.

In perfect love he dies;  
For me he dies, for me.  
O all-atoning Sacrifice,  
I cling by faith to thee.

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** (Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 16-18, 27-28; John 1:29) are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Jesus' ancestor David the psalmist foretold by divine inspiration the suffering and sacrifice of his descendant Jesus, the Lamb of God. Nailed to the cross, Jesus prayed using words from the prophetic psalm: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?...All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

**C** 'He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!'...

**P** For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

**C** They have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—

**P** They stare and gloat over me;

**C** They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots...

**P** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

**C** And all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

**P** For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations."

**C** "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

- The **Confession and Forgiveness** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C** Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We seek to satisfy our own selfish desires. We listen to the temptations of the world around us instead of following your Word and ways. We do not love others as we should. Have mercy on us, and forgive us.

**P** God, in his grace and mercy, sent his Son into the world as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. “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 53:6). I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C** With his wounds we are healed.

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, you bore our sins in your body on the cross. In our place, you suffered the penalty of death that we deserve. By God’s grace through faith in your name, our sins are forgiven, and we stand before God clothed in your holiness, your righteousness. Lead us by the Holy Spirit to follow in your steps and be willing to make sacrifices for the sake of serving others. Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, hear our prayer and accept our praise. Amen.

- The **Children’s Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*Needed: pictures of members of the armed forces and first responders; picture of Jesus on the cross*

**P** A word we are using today in our worship is the word *sacrifice*. To sacrifice is to give up something to help or give to others. Who are the people in these pictures? (*Show the pictures of military members and first responders. Let children answer.*) These are pictures of people who fight for our country, people who defend us and help us in times of trouble. They often sacrifice—or give up—their own safety to keep us safe. Sometimes, they may sacrifice—or give up—their lives to save people. We remember and honor them for the work they do.

Today is Good Friday, the day when we remember that Jesus died on the cross. We have crosses in our church to help us remember our Savior. Where do you see crosses in our church? (*Let children answer.*) This is a picture of Jesus on the cross. What did Jesus sacrifice, or give up, to take our sins away? (*Let children answer.*) Jesus gave up his life to save us. He sacrificed his life so that our sins can be forgiven. Then, on the first Easter morning, Jesus rose from the dead. We will celebrate that on Sunday morning! Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and because he came to life again on the first Easter morning, we will live with him in heaven forever.

Let’s pray: Jesus, you gave up your life to save us. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Welt, Ich Muss Dich Lassen 776 778, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Upon the cross extended  
 See, world, your Lord suspended.  
 Your Savior yields his breath.  
 The Prince of Life from heaven  
 Himself has freely given  
 To shame and blows and bitter death.

Your soul in griefs unbounded,  
 Your head with thorns surrounded,  
 You died to ransom me.  
 The cross for me enduring,  
 The crown for me securing,  
 You healed my wounds and set me free.

Your cross I place before me;  
 Its saving pow'r restore me,  
 Sustain me in the test.  
 It will, when life is ending.  
 Be guiding and attending  
 My way to your eternal rest.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 53:6-9, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** 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. 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.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Hebrews 10:12-14, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 19:31-35, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Southwell SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Not all the blood of beasts  
 On Jewish altars slain  
 Could give the guilty conscience peace  
 Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,  
 Takes all our sins away;  
 A sacrifice of nobler name  
 And richer blood than they.

My soul looks back to see  
 The burden thou didst bear  
 When hanging on the cursed tree;  
 I know my guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice  
 To see the curse remove;  
 We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice  
 And sing his bleeding love.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

Ⓟ Grace, mercy and peace to you, my dear Christian friends. Tonight on this Good Friday, after 40 days of being guided to the cross this Lent, we stand now at the foot of the cross. We have been guided to this point, to this place, to the crucifixion of our Savior, who is the sacrifice for us.

The concept of sacrifice can have many levels and dimensions. But on this day we see the ultimate sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Jesus gave of himself fully, freely and completely. He did not hold any part of himself back. He did not say no to any aspect of his mission to remove the power of sin, death and the devil from us. Because of the depth of Christ's sacrifice, it is hard for us to look at the cross today. It was hard for those who were there, too. The women stood at a distance. Many who had heard of Jesus or known him certainly must have turned away as they saw him lifted up the cross on the outskirts of town at The Place of the Skull.

Crucifixions were designed to be public displays of humiliation after all and deterrents to all of those who were considering claiming to be a king or a god or an opponent to Roman authority. This type of death was not private; each pain, each agony, each embarrassment was seen by all. There was no hiding what was happening. People could see firsthand that Jesus was in the throes of dying. And that might have served to prove to any doubters out there that may have wondered if Jesus really died. There was no denying it. Christ's physical sacrifice was very real. At the end of the day, the soldiers recognized that he was already dead when they took him down from the cross.

But what the people at the cross that day may not have seen that readily or that clearly was the internal spiritual sacrifice that Jesus was enduring. The heavy burden of every sin of every person past, present and future was placed upon his sinless divine nature. He felt every inner pain and struggle of sin that we experienced and took that all away with his final breath. With his death, the power of the dying happening inside of us each day is removed and replaced by the power of new life through him.

This sacrifice of our Savior on the cross on this day is the culmination of thousands of years of promises from God and centuries of waiting by God's people for this moment to arrive. This sacrifice was even foreshadowed when the high priests in the Temple in Jerusalem would sacrifice animals on the altar in the Holy of Holies, sprinkling the animals' blood there to atone for the sins of the people.

Because of the sacrifice on the cross, all such sacrifices are no longer necessary. Jesus is the Lamb of God who was slain for the sins of the whole world. Even in heaven, we will praise the Lamb upon the throne, the Book of Revelation tells us. We will see with our own eyes there the one who sacrificed himself for us, and we will rejoice. Even John the Baptist, when he saw Jesus coming toward him early in his ministry, said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). John the Baptist even then knew that a sacrifice like no other would happen on this day, this Good Friday.

So what does this sacrifice on the cross mean for us? In a word, everything! We are forever changed because of Christ crucified. The wrath of God over our sins is no longer a threat. Jesus takes on the eternal consequences of our sins by dying as a sinless person in our place. We are no longer doomed to die for sin. We are forgiven and free and able to live a new life in him.