

Good Friday Service Kit

A quiet, cross-centred order — Isaiah 53 responsive reading, the seven sayings, and inserts for a tenebrae or evening service.

When to use it: Good Friday, the Friday of Holy Week.

Order of service

1. Prelude / gathering music
2. Call to worship (Scripture below)
3. Opening hymn
4. Invocation
5. Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon
6. Responsive reading
7. Scripture reading
8. Sermon
9. Response — communion, offering, or prayer
10. Closing hymn
11. Benediction

Hymn suggestions (public domain)

- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
- There Is a Fountain

Suggested preaching text

Isaiah 53 with John 19:16-30.

Calls to worship

Read one aloud to open the service. Short is better than long — the point is to turn the room toward God before anything else is said.

But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Habakkuk 2:20 (KJV)

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5 (KJV)

It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

John 19:30 (KJV)

Invocation

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to the foot of thy cross. We have nothing to bring and nothing to say. Hold us here long enough to see what our sin cost and what thy love paid. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Holy Saviour, we confess that we treat thy death lightly. We hurry past Friday to reach Sunday. Keep us here in the dark a while, and let the weight of it break something hard in us. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5 (KJV)

Responsive reading

Isaiah 53 — Wounded for Our Transgressions

Leader reads the plain lines; the congregation reads the lines in bold. Print this page in the bulletin exactly as it appears here.

Leader: He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.
Isaiah 53:3 (KJV)

People: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.
Isaiah 53:4 (KJV)

Leader: But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5 (KJV)

People: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:6 (KJV)

All: It is finished.
John 19:30 (KJV)

Offering sentence

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV)

Benediction

Speak the blessing over the congregation rather than praying it — the biblical pattern is a word given to the people, not a request made on their behalf.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (KJV)

Bulletin inserts — cut along the dashed lines

Photocopy this page, cut on the dashed borders, and slip one into every bulletin or visitor pack. Free to reproduce for church use.

BULLETIN INSERT 1 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

The seven sayings from the cross

It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

John 19:30 (KJV)

Luke 23:34, Luke 23:43, John 19:26-27, Matthew 27:46, John 19:28, John 19:30, Luke 23:46. Read one at a time, extinguishing a candle after each, and let the room end in silence.

BULLETIN INSERT 2 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

Why we call it good

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5 (KJV)

It was the worst Friday in human history and we call it good, because on it the debt we could never pay was paid in full by someone who did not owe it. Come back Sunday and hear how the story ends.

Service planning notes

Fill this in on the Thursday before and hand a copy to the musicians, the reader, and the sound desk.

Preacher

Sermon title and text

Reader / liturgist

Hymns

Communion / ordinance

Announcements

Notes

More free KJV resources for Sunday at biblesundays.com/sunday — sermon series plans, printables, hymn texts, and free Bible widgets for your church website.