

April 7, 2023 - Good Friday

The Fellowship of His Sufferings

[Matthew 27:11-54](#)

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land^[i] until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.^[i] ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

We are present today at the foot of the Cross. From Matthew 27: 11-54, we see, feel, and know the agony and passion of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, but we are not alone.

We have the LORD Himself to remind us as we remember "That we may know HIM in the power of HIS resurrection and the fellowship of HIS sufferings" (Philippians 3:10).

We also have the fellowship of other Christians as we gather together to remember. We are not alone. We do not despair because together we remember "the power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3:10).

Today, we fix our eyes, our hearts, and our very being on Jesus with other Christians all over the world who also pause and remember. These times of remembering in Christian community at Good Friday services are important for our connection to our LORD and to each other. We draw strength and hope knowing that EASTER Day is coming and in each other.

When my brother-in-law died in this past year, his journey with cancer was a short 6 months. It was very painful for me and my family to stand, witness, and pray. The Church was truly there for my sister and our family in countless ways.

Peace and gratitude filled us for Tom's life, the Church fellowship, and our Lord Jesus Christ. We are never alone. We have the promise of Easter and "the power of HIS resurrection".

Prayer: LORD JESUS, we remember that YOU suffered for us on the Cross and we are grateful. Thank you for new life and the fellowship with other Christians. Amen.

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