

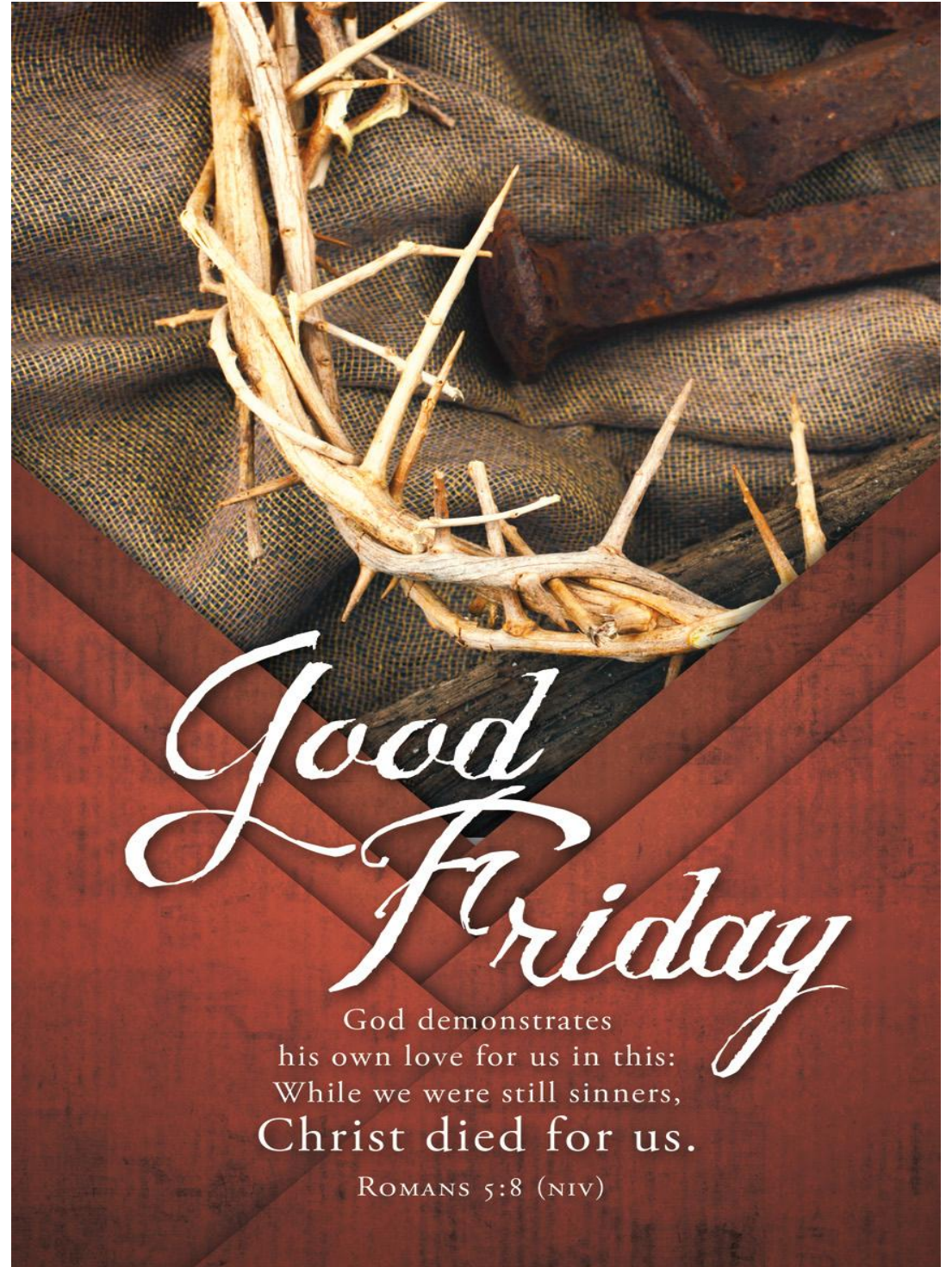


FOR GOD
SO

JOHN 3:16

loved

THE WORLD...



*Good
Friday*

God demonstrates
his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8 (NIV)

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Silence and Time for Reflection

Opening Prayer

Faithful God, we stand in the dim shadows of a cross, longing for resurrection. But today we pause to remember the pain of the cross, and the pain of the crosses we've faced. As the disciples wept on that fateful day so long ago, we weep for the savior and for the tree, and all the trees that one represented, from which he hung. We cry for our ecology: birds slick from oil; forests decimated, causing mudslides and runoff; air polluted due to our disdain for the creation that cries with us. As those first disciples wondered whether that fateful day was the end of their dreams, we admit we are afraid that our dream of a just, nonviolent world is fleeting and in peril of death. Help us, God, as we live in the tension between this death and your seeming silence, the time after the crucifixion and before the resurrection. In the name and pain of the Crucified One, Amen.

Litany

P: When Jesus finished praying in the garden, he went to meet his future -- a certain death, a certain betrayal.

Response: All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"

P: He was met by soldiers and false accusers.

Response: All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"

P: Judas kissed away the meals and the miles they had shared together.

Response: All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"

P: Peter tried to protect him from an inevitable and foretold end.

Response: All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"

P: When he couldn't protect him, Peter's fear led him to deny him.

Response: All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"

P: From hall to hall and heart to heart, they led him in the dark of night to false witnesses

Response: All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"

P: Pilate questioned his statement: "I came to testify to the truth." I came to be on the side of truth.

Response: All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"

P: What was Pilate to do since he saw the truth with his eyes, but did not have courage to free it?

Response: All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"

P: Crucify him still rings across time, because truth unrecognized always goes punished.

Response: And still we're asking, "What is truth?"

Solemn Music

Ah, Holy Jesus

ELW #349

Readings – The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross

Susan Kruse

Luke 23:34: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Luke 23:43: Verily, I say unto you, today thou shalt be with me in paradise.

John 19:26–27: Woman, behold thy son. (Says to disciple) Behold thy mother.

Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

John 19:28: I thirst.

John 19:30: It is finished.

Luke 23:46: Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit.

Reflection

Solemn Music

They Crucified My Lord

ELW #350

Reflection on the Cross

P: Behold the cross on which the Lamb of God was hung

Time for silence

P: Behold the cross on which our sins were taken upon one who was innocent

Time for silence

P: Behold the cross on which our Savior died

Time for silence

P: Behold the cross, which restored our relationship with God

Time for silence

P: Behold the cross, which gives time for you to ponder what the cross means to you

Amen.

Depart in silence