

Prayers of the Church, Good Friday (April 10, 2020)

(<http://lutherancore.website/2020/03/07/prayers-of-the-church-good-friday-april-10-2020/>)

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear our prayer.

A brief silence

Forgive and save your Church, O God, for heeding anything that distracts it from knowing, proclaiming, and sharing the love of Jesus, its crucified and risen Redeemer.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and renew pastors, bishops, theologians, and other church leaders when by treacherous words and shameful deeds they crucify Christ anew, and turn people from his salvation.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and guide each of us in this congregation, for the small and great ways in which we fail to love you with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, and do not love one another as Jesus has loved us.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and challenge everyone who says they believe in you, but have more pressing obligations than worship, prayer, forgiveness, or service in your name.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and enlighten all who believe in other gods, or who have limited and distorted notions of who you are.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and rescue all who say they are “spiritual but not religious,” or who are fascinated by the occult or dark spiritual arts.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and teach those who do not believe in you at all, especially those who persecute believers.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and bring to repentance our enemies, personal and communal. Forgive all who slander, lie, and spew hate, as did their spiritual ancestors toward your beloved Son.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and transform all who break promises, break laws, and break hearts, especially when we still struggle to forgive.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and energize all who whine, complain, make excuses, and shift blame to others.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and reform everyone who seeks to divide, not build up; to sow suspicion, not trust; and who insists on their own way at any cost.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and liberate those who are enslaved by their desires, passions, fears, addictions, or by their attraction to evil for its own sake.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive and heal all who are caught in snares of illness and pain, depression and anxiety, regret and shame.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

Forgive, save, transform, and redeem all of us – for if we are honest, we know we must number ourselves in the great and miserable fellowship of sinners. Forgive, dear Lord, forgive us who despair; who seek revenge; who are cruel and selfish; who are bored and apathetic; who are thoughtless, clueless, heedless, merciless, and faithless.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear our prayer.***

By the suffering and passion, of your holy and beloved Son; by his prayers from the Cross for our sake; by his sinless death and his descent into the depths of hell for the sake of sinners; by his glorious resurrection and ascension, and by his promise to come again as victorious Lord of all, forgive us our sins, heavenly Father. Crucify our sins and burn them in hell; but hide us, your poor sinful creatures, in the life-giving wounds of Jesus, and shelter us in his outstretched arms. Anoint us with the same Spirit he committed to you with his dying breath. Raise us, in the power of that Spirit, to share in the glorious resurrection life of Christ. And speed the coming of that great eternal day when everyone whom you have forgiven and healed, transformed and redeemed, is made fit to stand together before your throne, there to praise and adore you in the unity you share with your Son, our Saviour and Lord, and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.