

Home work: DCF 100420 Good Friday Service

Read Zec 12 and 13. What an amazing prophecy of a time to come. We see that it comes with refining and testing (13:7-9). Matthew quotes this passage in Matt 26:31. It is amazing that after nearly 1900 years, the Jews still existed and Israel was formed. Satan had tried to wipe out these people, many would have said the prophecy was phony, but it happened. We worship a faithful God.

The Corona Virus is a time of preparation for something even bigger. Finance, job security, health have been shaken.

The incredible verses in Friday's service are Matt 26:39 ³⁹ ***He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."***

And then Matt 27:46. ***Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"***

When Job had nothing left, he still remained faithful to God. His family, friends, finances, and health were shattered. But he remained faithful.

Percy Cerutti the coach of Herb Elliott had this saying: **To train without pain is to train without gain.** Elliott broke the 4-minute barrier on 17 separate occasions; an extraordinary feat for athletes during his time period. Elliott was never bettered at the distance of a mile or the 1500.

At one point during his career, Elliott and Cerutti got in an argument. To solve the argument, Cerutti challenged Elliott to a mile race. Whoever won this race would also win the argument. Sure, enough they raced and Cerutti was clearly beaten on time; he was racing the top miler in the world who didn't even have to try to win the race between the two of them. However, when Cerutti crossed the line, he told Elliott that he had won because he had put in more effort than Elliott. His point being that regardless of the circumstances, 100% effort should always be put first.

On the cross, Jesus proves His heart. Regardless of the fact the He feels deserted, He remains faithful. This is love. **We do not love God for what we can get.** Yes, we are grateful for all that we get. But we love Him because He is God, our faithful wonderful Father in heaven. A parent's love for their little child is given to us to understand this selfless giving. So that, even when we lose the race, He looks at our heart to see if we tried.

As we prepare for Good Friday, pray for DCF to absorb this incredible day in the history of the world. God became man – and He won.

DCF 100420 Good Friday Service

Prep: You will need a small drink and bread or biscuit for communion.

Opening prayer:

Lord, I am at home at a virtual service and Satan would want me to take it lightly. So, I stand against that. The day is called 'Good Friday', but in fact it was a terrible Friday, except for one thing, the big thing – You won. It was a hideous Friday – but You won. You were betrayed, Your friend denied You, Your 3 friends fell asleep when You were desperate in prayer, false witnesses were brought against You, political correctness caused Pilate to give in to the Jewish leaders, You were mocked, spat on, whipped, stripped, humiliated and crucified. But You won. Nothing that I have ever experienced or ever will experience, even comes near to that.

So, what I ask for, as I read and listen to this service, at the end, is to be thankful for Your sacrifice on that day. That's it. I just do not want to be ungrateful. This weekend is not about Easter eggs, rabbits and hot cross buns. I will not let Satan steal the meaning of Your day from me. You are an amazing Savior. Absolutely amazing!

Amen

Song:

Highlight the link then RIGHT click and click on Open Hyperlink this song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>

O Praise the Name – I cast my mind to Calvary

[Verse 1]

I cast my mind to Calvary

Where Jesus bled and died for me

I see His wounds His hands His feet

My Savior on that cursed tree.

[Verse 2]

His body bound and drenched in tears

They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb

The entrance sealed by heavy stone

Messiah still and all alone

[Chorus]

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

[Verse 3]

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King

[Chorus]

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

[Verse 4]

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

[Chorus]

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise

Oh Lord oh Lord our God
 O praise the Name of the Lord our God
 O praise His Name forevermore
 For endless days we will sing Your praise
 Oh Lord oh Lord our God
 Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Reading: Matt 26:26-30

Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus used the celebration of the Passover meal to initiate the New Covenant. The old Passover meal celebrated the escape from the 400-year bondage of slavery in Egypt. The New Covenant celebrates the escape from the bondage of sin forever. At this meal Jesus transforms the meaning of the elements so that the bread now means His body, and the cup now means His blood.

God required the Jews to celebrate the Passover annually so they would always remember His love for them in rescuing them. So too, we need these emblems to remind us of the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary when He rescued us. A new and living way was being established by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Heb 9:26... now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

The word for shed is *ekcheo* which means to pour out and refers to liquid running freely. The phrase “shedding blood” refers to killing. Jesus took the place of the lambs that were killed at Passover. In Rom 3:25 the word *ekcheo* is used for the pouring out of God’s love.

Rom 5:5 ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

So, we should see the connection between the agony of sacrifice and the love that comes to us.

Prayer of the bread:

Lord, thank You for pain – without my experience of pain I would never have even a glimpse of Your sacrifice for me. Thank you for Your willingness to offer Your body for me. Thank You for teaching me that I, as part of the church, am part of Your body. As I take this bread, I deliberately break whatever links to the flesh, that are outside Your will for me. The flesh and the world have so corrupted our thinking that we do not even know what we are missing. So, I break the bread, in memory of You breaking the body – to achieve the will of God – the salvation of souls.

Amen

Take the bread.

Prayer for the cup:

Lord, I take the cup, it is a symbol of Your blood poured out for me, which reminds me of Your love poured out for me. It is also a huge celebration that ALL my sins are washed away. It matters not what people think of me – it’s what You think of me. And Your word in Heb 4:16 encourages me to ***come boldly to the throne of grace, ... to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

I so need to come to You, not once or twice, but over, and over, and over again. These are days full of needs. Health, finances, prodigals, and the foreboding of something huge globally. But even just the start of coming to You for that, needs the confidence that ***the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7.***

So, this cup gets me started – it gets me to boldly approach the throne of grace, and put into Your lap, things that break my heart. Thank You for the reminder that I am cleansed and washed and forgiven.

Amen

Take the cup

Song: Amazing Grace

Highlight the link then RIGHT click and click on Open Hyperlink this song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MZgXXUW08Q>

Amazing grace

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Reading: Matt 26: 31-35 Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

***'I will strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'***

³² But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

³³ Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

³⁵ Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"

And so, said all the disciples.

Prayer:

Father God, I pray for the courage to stand strong for You. For us in 2020 in W.A. it seems like very petty courage. But I need the alertness to speak out for You. To use words like 'God bless you', 'I will pray for you', 'I know those people from church'... I just need people around me to know that we are connected. So, I pray for a boldness, an alertness to be ready, and words from You. Amen

Read:

We have seen in the 2000 years since the life of Jesus a huge persecution of Christians. Peter and the disciples fall this time, but in the end, all except John are executed for their faith.

Three decades after this event, at about 64 AD, he stands strong as a rock – just as Jesus called him. After Herod executed James in the year 44 AD, he had Peter arrested (Acts 12:3). But miraculously an angel rescued Peter from jail. According to tradition, he spent his final years in Rome. He wrote 2 Peter whilst awaiting execution in prison, detained with Paul. They converted 2 guards and 47 others. After 9 months he was given a severe flogging and crucified upside down at his request, saying he was unworthy of dying in the same manner as Jesus.

Are you discouraged by your failure? We expect failure, but we must never give up. One thing we continually see in the classroom is success after getting it wrong. The good thing about

failure is that we see where and how we go wrong. God's persistent love for us as a Father is amazing.

Song: How deep the father's love for us.

Highlight the link then RIGHT click and click on Open Hyperlink this song.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzQj7XvKFmA&list=RDtzQj7XvKFmA&start_radio=1

How deep the Father's love for us,
 How vast beyond all measure,
 That He should give His only Son
 To make a wretch His treasure.
 How great the pain of searing loss –
 The Father turns His face away,
 As wounds which mar the Chosen One
 Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
 My sin upon His shoulders;
 Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
 Call out among the scoffers.
 It was my sin that held Him there
 Until it was accomplished;
 His dying breath has brought me life –
 I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
 No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
 But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
 His death and resurrection.
 Why should I gain from His reward?
 I cannot give an answer;
 But this I know with all my heart –
 His wounds have paid my ransom.

Prayer: Thank God for His love.

Here are some suggestions to prompt your thoughts:

- Parents and family
- Friends

- DCF
- Finances
- Health
- Job
- Your salvation.

Reading: Matt 26:36-46 *The Prayer in the Garden*

³⁶ Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." ³⁷ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. ³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." ⁴³ And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

How often we face hard times alone. Friends are there – but you still walk alone. Some time after our daughter died, Sue and I realized we were both emotionally bankrupt, and could not do anything to support each other. Jesus understands the loneliness of our suffering. There are 2 ways we can go in these hard times. We can curse God for not doing things our way. Or, we can surrender to the will of God and say Your will be done.

Heb 2:9,10⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for

everyone. ¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Song: All to Jesus I surrender

Highlight the link then RIGHT click and click on Open Hyperlink this song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x2IpLSfq8>

2 verses are omitted from the clip – but you could read and pray them.

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

I surrender all,
I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

2

All to Jesus I surrender,
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

3

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

4

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

5

All to Jesus I surrender,
Now I feel the sacred flame.
Oh, the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory to His name!

13 Pray to have the courage in the loneliness of grief to want God's will done.

Matt 27:27 The Soldiers Mock Jesus

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. ²⁸ And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹ When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And

they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”³⁰ Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.³¹ And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Standing up for the Truth will bring strong opposition and hatred. We see it repeatedly in the Scriptures, in the lives of people like Joseph, Moses, Jeremiah and many others. This hatred comes from a pride that refuses to see and admit that they are wrong. But deep down they know they are wrong. Evolution is an example of this blindness. How anyone can really believe that some gasses exploded and life was formed so that adult humans, male and female, were the result, is stupendous. These soldiers refused to see beyond the flesh.

SONG: Oh, to see the dawn

Highlight the link then RIGHT click and click on Open Hyperlink this song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nwzt9jRUPNg>

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every bitter thought,
Every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees,
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,

Dead are raised to life;
‘Finished!’ the victory cry.

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Matt 27:32 The King on a Cross

³² Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross. ³³ And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, ³⁴ they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

³⁵ Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”

³⁶ Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. ³⁷ And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

³⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

⁴¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. ⁴³ He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’

44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

Matthew misses the observation of Luke in Luke 23:42 where the second robber acknowledges the Lordship of Jesus and receives salvation. ***42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."*** ***43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."***

What made the change? I think it was the manner in which Jesus accepted His death. Jesus knew that He had to die to defeat death. But it was an action of great faith in God. It was also an example for us to die believing that glory awaits us. How we accept suffering is a huge witness of God's life in us.

Matt 27:45 Jesus Dies on the Cross

45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Why is this line put in to the gospel? Surely, it is here to encourage us when we feel rejected by God. When the finances collapse, the family has huge troubles, the friends fail us, and all our prayers seem to fall to the ground, then the true test comes.

Are we faithful followers of Jesus just for what we can get, or because He is the Son of God who saved us?

We have to stay true to God in the face of huge battering – just like Job did. Jesus has already committed His heart in 26:42. ***"O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."*** So, while He seems to have lost everything, even contact with God – He still stands firm. At this stage He could have abandoned the cross, and mankind would be lost forever. This is amazing love.

Song: This is amazing love:... who breaks the power of sin and darkness...

Highlight the link then RIGHT click and click on Open Hyperlink this song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PO7KVCGQRyQ>

"This Is Amazing Grace"

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
 And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
 The King of Glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
 This is unfailing love
 That You would take my place
 That You would bear my cross
 You laid down Your life
 That I would be set free
 Oh, Jesus, I sing for
 All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order?
 Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
 The King of Glory, the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
 Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
 The King of Glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
 This is unfailing love
 That You would take my place
 That You would bear my cross
 You laid down Your life
 That I would be set free
 Oh, Jesus, I sing for
 All that You've done for me

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
 Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
 Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
 Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
 Worthy, worthy, worthy

This is amazing grace
 This is unfailing love
 That You would take my place
 That You would bear my cross
 You laid down Your life

That I would be set free
 Oh, Jesus, I sing for
 All that You've done for me

All that You've done for me

Read: Matt 27:47

47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" 48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

49 The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

The world rarely connects the cataclysmic events to the spiritual, but the Bible does. Believers today are reticent to make the connection between the fires and floods and Corona with the sin in our nation.

Here are some other links in the Bible:

- The Flood of Noah. In Gen 6:5 God sees the wickedness of man, and He was grieved in His heart. And says 'I will destroy man.'
- The 10 plagues of Egypt in Ex 7 -11.
- The sun stands still in Joshua 10

- The 6th seal in Rev 6:12
- The Trumpets in Rev 8
- The Bowls of Wrath in Rev 16
- The calming of the sea in John 6:18

Our western 'scientific' mind would have dismissed the earthquake as coincidence. But huge things happened when Jesus yielded up His spirit.

Read: Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb

⁵⁷ Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. ⁵⁹ When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. ⁶¹ And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

Final Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness.

Highlight the link then RIGHT click and click on Open Hyperlink this song. Pick piano and sing along. <https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/19>

Great is Thy faithfulness

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
 As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be. “Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
 “Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 Join with all nature in manifold witness
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Final Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for the cross and all it means. In all the trials of this life, You have given us a Hope that is rock solid. You beat death. The one seemingly invincible weapon of Satan – You conquered death. **1 Cor 15:54 'Death is swallowed up in victory'**. Thank You. Amen.