**Communion Service, Good Friday March 28,2013**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Reader 1:**

When they came to the place called the skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said: “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

**Reader 2:**

*God, we confess that we have sinned against you. We’ve walked roads that led to death instead of to life with you. We sinned in ignorance: we really didn’t know what we were doing.*

*Please show us our sin today, so that we might turn to you and discover that we are included in Christ’s prayer for our forgiveness.*

**Reader 1:**

One of the criminals hurled insults at him... but the other said: “We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth today you will be with me in paradise.”

**Reader 2:**

*God, we confess that so often we’ve lived like that first criminal: we’ve spurned your grace, we’ve rejected your love, we’ve made light of your salvation. Remind us today that you promise the joy of paradise to the repentant. Enable us now to repent and receive your grace in this world, and in the world to come.*

**Reader 1:**

When Jesus saw his mother standing there, and the disciple whom he loved standing near by, he said: “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”

**Reader 2:**

*God, in his hour of greatest suffering Jesus showed compassion for the sufferings of others. He made arrangements for his grieving mother’s care. We confess that so often we’ve not lived like that. Instead we’ve let the burdens of our own petty crosses turn us inward, and harden us, and blind us to the need of those around us. Lead us out of ourselves. Turn our eyes outward. Enlarge our hearts and give us the compassion of Jesus.*

**Reader 1:**

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?* Which means: my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Reader 2:**

*God, we confess that it was our own God-forsakenness, that Jesus tasted in that moment. We confess those times we when we were blind to You, because our grief and despair was so heavy. We thought you’d abandoned us.*

*We confess those times we’ve tried to pretend that things were all shiny and happy with you, when in truth our hearts were breaking. We didn’t believe you could handle our hurts.*

*We confess those times when we gave in to feelings of God-forsakenness, out of pride. Because what we really wanted was to have things our own way, even if that led us away from you.*

**Reader 1:**

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

**Reader 2:**

*God, Jesus taught us to quench his thirst in the by quenching the thirst of those around us. We confess that we have not been faithful in this: we have seen people hurt and not helped. We have seen people on the outside and not welcomed them in. We have seen people persecuted and not prayed. We’ve turned Jesus away thirsty.*

*O blessed saviour, who thirsted for our forgiveness, give us the water of life. Relieve our deepest spiritual thirst now. And lead us to bring this relief to others.*

**Reader 1:**

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.”

**Reader 2:**

*God, we confess that we’ve tried to add to the finished work of the cross.*

*Those times when thought we had to earn your acceptance by our own merit. Those times when we thought we could make things right between us and you on our own. Those times when we doubted that what you did through the cross was enough. When we wouldn’t let your grace be sufficient for us.*

*We confess that now with great sorrow, and repent in faith.*

**Reader 1:**

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

**Reader 2:**

*Father, your Son Jesus Christ committed his spirit into your hands.*

*Through out our lives, in our joys and in our trials and at the moment of our death, grant that we too may entrust our lives into your loving hands. In the name of Jesus, who gave his life for us all we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Reader 1:**

The Bible says that In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**Reader 2:**

And in another place it says: Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might live for righteousness.

Follower of Jesus: received the grace of God, today: by his wounds you are been healed.

Amen?

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Let’s pray:

Gracious God, we praise you.

Because you created heaven and earth, made us in your image,

and kept covenant with us, even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord,

who died on the cross so that we might be reconciled to you.

And in this solemn moment of remembrance,

we join our voices with all the saints and angels

and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks, God ,that before he suffered, our Saviour Jesus Christ gave us this memorial of his sacrifice.

**Prayer of Blessing:**

And as we come to his table now, we proclaim the truth that this sacred meal reminds us of:

**That God demonstrates his own love towards us in this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

*[Break bread]*

**We who are many, are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**

And the cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

*[Raise cup]*

**The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

*[invite the servers (bread) forward. Begin distribution: As the elements are being distributed lets take a moment in quiet reflection, and we’ll wait until all have received, so that we can eat and drink together as the Body of Christ*]

[*Invite cup servers forward, begin distribution*]