

# Sermon for Good Friday

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4)

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (John 1:9-11)

He said, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death;

remain here, and watch with Me.

And when He came to the disciples, He found them sleeping" (Matt 26:38-40).

He said, "See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners" (Mat 26:45).

And they laid hands on Jesus and seized Him" (v50).

He said, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture Me" (v55)?

And all the disciples left Him and fled (v56).

Those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest (Mat 26:57)

and they sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death (v59).

Many false witnesses came forward (v60).

“What further witnesses do we need,” they asked.

“What is your judgment,” they asked.

And they answered: “He deserves death.”

Then they spit in His face and struck Him.

And some slapped Him, saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ!

Who is it that struck you” (v68)?

And they led Jesus to the governor’s headquarters.

And Pilate said to Him, “What is truth” (John 18:38)?

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him.

And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe (John 19:1-2).

Pilate said, “Behold the man!” And they cried out,

“Crucify Him, Crucify Him” (John 19:5-6)!

Pilate said,  
“Behold your King!” And they cried out,

“Away with Him, away with Him,  
crucify Him” (John 19:14-15).

The Word who IS God, came  
into the world, and *still* the world does  
not receive Him.

He invites US to keep watch and  
pray, and *still* we sleep.

The world rises up  
against Him, and *still* we flee.

Lies are spoken about Him.

Governors reject the truth of His  
Word.

And we hand Him over by our sin, that  
we, too, may crucify Him.

“Away with Him” we cry when His Word becomes inconvenient for  
us -

“Away with Him” we cry when His  
Word stands between us and the profane slop we would have to satisfy our sinful  
cravings.

And what does our Lord say to this dark world on this dark  
night, in this dark hour?

He says, “Father, forgive them, for  
they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

The curtain in the temple is torn from top to bottom.

The tombs are opened, the prisoners  
released (Mat 27:51-52).

And from His pierced side, there now  
flows the blood and the water (John 19:34) -

the gifts of  
salvation -

the cleansing flood that washes  
away the sin of the world;

the blood of the Lamb who takes  
away the sin of the world,

the fruits of the cross that bring  
light and life and forgiveness to the sin of the world.

And from all those who receive Him -

from those who believe on His Name,  
there now comes the glorious confession,

“Truly this was  
the Son of God” (Mat 27:54)!

For *we* have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John  
1:4).

In the Name of  
Jesus. Amen.

*Preached by Pastor  
Holowach*

*Sermon texts: John 1:1-17,  
Matthew 26:36-68, John 18:28-40, John 19:1-16, Luke 23:26-43, Matthew  
27:45-54,  
John 19:31-42,*