

GOOD FRIDAY



Hymn

Prayer

Gracious and eternal God,
look with mercy on this your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ
was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the
cross; who is alive and glorified with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 27: 1 – 61

Reflection:

It's Friday, Jesus is praying, Peter's a sleeping, Judas is betraying, but
Sunday's coming

It's Friday, Pilate's struggling, the council is conspiring, the crowd is vilifying. They don't even know that Sunday's coming.

It's Friday, The disciples are running like sheep without a shepherd, Mary's crying Peter is denying, but they don't know That Sunday's a coming

It's Friday The Romans beat my Jesus, they robe him in scarlet, they crown him with thorns. But they don't know that Sunday's coming

It's Friday, see Jesus walking to Calvary His blood dripping, His body stumbling, and his spirit's burdened. But you see, it's only Friday, Sunday's coming

It's Friday, the world's winning, people are sinning, and evil's grinning.

It's Friday, the soldiers nail my Saviour's hands to the cross, they nail my Saviour's feet to the cross, and then they raise him up next to criminals. It's Friday But let me tell you something Sunday's coming

It's Friday, the disciples are questioning what has happened to their King, and the Pharisees are celebrating that their scheming has been achieved. But they don't know it's only Friday, Sunday's coming.

It's Friday, He's hanging on the cross feeling forsaken by his Father, left alone and dying, can nobody save him?

Oooh It's Friday But Sunday's coming

It's Friday, the earth trembles, the sky grows dark, my King yields his spirit.

It's Friday Hope is lost, death has won, sin has conquered, and Satan's just a laughing

It's Friday, Jesus is buried, a soldier stands guard, and a rock is rolled into place.

But it's Friday It is only Friday Sunday is a coming!

S.M. Lockridge (1913-2000), pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in San Diego from 1953 to 1993.

Hymn

The Reproaches

(part of the Good Friday afternoon liturgy since the 9th century)

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.

I delivered you from the hand of Pharaoh,
but you delivered me up to be crucified.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

My presence was with you in the pillar of cloud,
but you could not watch with me one hour.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

I opened the sea to lead you out from slavery,
but you opened my side with a spear.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.

I sustained you with manna in the wilderness,
but you shared my bread and deserted me.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

I saved you from thirst with water from the rock,
but in my thirst you gave me vinegar to drink.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

I struck down your enemies before you,
but you struck my head with a reed.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.

I planted you as my fairest vine,
but you yielded only bitterness.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

I gave you a royal sceptre,
but you gave me a crown of thorns.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

I raised you to the height of majesty,
but you have raised me high on a cross.

My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.

Prayer

Praise be to God for the proof of his love for us.
With Jesus we can say: 'Father, into your hands we commit our lives.'
In your hands our lives our safe, come what may.
We know that your forgiveness is greater than our faults. Even they are
in your hands.
Even though there are difficulties and dangers we are in your hands.
And when we pass through the valley of the shadow of death we will do
so fearing no evil, knowing that we are in your loving hands.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Hymn

Prayer

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ,
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.