

L.GF LENT GOOD FRIDAY Psalm 130 *"DIVINE FORGETFULNESS"* 4.15.22 OSL*B
IF YOU, O LORD... *"If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O*

LORD, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared." Thus far the Psalmist from **Psalm 130, verses 3 & 4.**

WHAT'S THE SCORE? What would happen to us if God kept score? What would happen if our Lord had a divine scorecard, where every deed and every misdeed is added up? Every time you sin, it counts against you, and every time you do something out of completely selfless motives, well, then those count in your favor. What would happen? **Would you win or would you lose?**

IT's just *not* fair **That IS how we would and do run the world by nature.** That is how we would seek to keep things going and make things go. It would be fair, wouldn't it? And that's how things work in the world. **In the world you get what you pay for, or, you get what's coming to you.**

JUST DESERTS But if God kept score, **we would all end up in hell forever.** God reminds us of this again and again in His Law. Sometimes an event will happen in your life or a sermon or Scripture passage will hit you right between the eyes, and God's Law slams you against the wall. If God kept score, I would be lost. *"If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand?" (Psalm 130:3).* That is the question. The answer, of course, is **no one.** Not one of us could stand up to the unending gaze of God's Law.

WE ARE... This is why the Psalmist cries, *"Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!" [verse 1].* As we gaze on our LORD's Passion and death, it is clear that He is dying on the Tree **because of you and me.** We are the crowd crying, *"Crucify Him!"* You are **Herod**, who gaped and hoped for some show. I am **Pontius Pilate**, who committed Jesus to death. We are the **soldiers**, who nailed Him to the Tree. **We are the disciples, who scattered** at the thought of being caught on the wrong side. It is our sins that put Him there. They are real, and **YOU AND I KILLED the Son of God.**

IF YOU, O LORD... *"If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand?" [v3] ...But(!)* Left to ourselves, we are lost, alone and dead. But we are not left to ourselves. That is the great, wonderful message of salvation that comes to you today. **But. "BUT with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared."** [v4]

2 LESSION We learn two things from seeing God die on the Cross that (very) **Good Friday so many years ago.** First, we learn that our sins put Him there. **Second**, we learn that God

forgives. **Forgiveness.** It's a word that slips off our tongue like it costs nothing. Yet it is **the most expensive word in the whole world.** That word, **forgiveness**, cost Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **His Life.** That word sent Him down to earth to be mocked and killed for you.

THANK GOD HE'S NOT FAIR *"But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared."* When Jesus cried out from the Cross, **"IT IS FINISHED,"** He paid the price for that word, **forgiveness.** He cried from out of the depths, because He really was **abandoned and smitten by God**, so that you and I would **never face that great pain and suffering that He endured.** It is in His death that we have forgiveness. It is only in His death that we can rejoice in God's forgiveness.

FLEE TO BE FREE As the Psalmist prayed, *"He will redeem Israel from all her iniquities [from all their sins]" [v8].* God **bought back your soul** from Satan. God Himself brought you out of the pit. And His work of forgiving your sins goes on to this very day. His Word of Absolution and forgiveness is like the sweetest wine upon our lips. **Long** for that gift from God. **Flee to His Word of forgiveness!** Don't let the sun go down upon your sins. Confess your sins, and God will nail them to that tree. For that tree of death is a tree of life for you.

JOHN 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* It was your sins that put Him on the Cross, but it was also God's love that put Him on the Cross. Jesus could have come down. He could have given in and gone His own way. **But He stayed the course.** He said, **"Amen"** to God's love for you. And His love for His Father meant that His love for you would never end.

BUT WITH YOU, LORD... *"If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared."* (Psalm 130:3-4) **God forgives. He gives you Himself.** He washes you and makes you clean. He feeds you with His very Body and Blood. He puts the Word of Absolution into your ears. You will not die, but live, and proclaim the great works of God. Truly this is *Good Friday.* For the greatest good was accomplished by Jesus Christ today. Your life. In the name of Jesus, our only Mediator and Redeemer. **CLOSING [HYMN VERSE] PRAYER**

*May my soul be calm and fearless As I lie expecting death;
May Thy love so great and peerless Lauded be, with my last breath.
When at last I fall asleep, Dearest Jesus, May I keep
Firm the faith That life and Heaven By Thy death to me were given.
IJ'N, Amen. sdc*