

# Good Friday

## Music and Meditations

Friday, April 22, 2011

7:00p.m.

Good Friday is a day of remembrance when, as Christians, we solemnly reflect on the death of Jesus. It is the most solemn day in the Christian calendar and Christians observe this day with great humility and reverence.

As early as the first century, the Church set aside every Friday as a special day of prayer and fasting. It was not until the fourth century, however, that the Church began observing the Friday before Easter as the day associated with the crucifixion of Christ. First called Holy or Great Friday by the Greek Church, the name "Good Friday" was adopted by the Roman Church around the sixth or seventh century.

There are two possible origins for the name "Good Friday". The first may have come from the Gallican Church in Gaul (modern-day France and Germany). The name "Gute Freitag" is Germanic in origin and literally means "good" or "holy" Friday. The second possibility is a variation on the name "God's Friday," where the word "good" was used to replace the word "God," which was often viewed as too holy to be spoken aloud.

The music for this meaningful service will be selections from some of the greatest sacred choral masterworks. Included in the service will be such selections as *Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs* from Handel's *Messiah*, *Verily, Thou Shalt Be in Paradise Today With Me* from Dubois' cantata, *The Seven Last Words of Christ* and *Blessed are They That Mourn* from *A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms.