

# Good Friday



OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Connecting Faith to Everyday Life*

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021

*Worshippers who are wearing masks may participate in unison speaking and singing when invited*



## GATHERING

*The service begins in silence.*

**Introduction**

*The assembly stands.*

**+Procession of the Cross**

**+Meditation on the Cross**

Behold the cross.

An earthly empire's crude punishment,  
the sentence of our heavenly sovereign.

A criminal's justice  
carried by the innocent Christ.

Behold the cross.

**+Scripture** – John 18:1–12

[Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he,' they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

**+Solemn Reproaches**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

I hung my bow of war in the clouds;

but you have fomented discord among neighbors.

I unstrung my weapon of war

but you have prepared a cross for your savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal  
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

When Abram and Sarai were as good as dead,

I made them alive with laughter;

you are the freshest bloom of their promise

but you have prepared a cross for your savior.

**Holy, holy, holy, holy and mighty, holy and immortal  
have mercy on us.**

**+Prayer of the Day**

Peace to you in the name of the God Who Made; the Child Who Died; the Spirit Who Made Again. Amen.

Let us pray.

God, please have mercy on us. For we are people tossed by the tidal forces of this world: pressure, responsibility, the demands of vocation and the expectations of society.

We do not always choose rightly. Yet even in the greatest storm, we still feel the faithful pull of the great gravity of your love. Come quickly to help us, gracious God.

In your name we pray, amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

**Drama** – *Pilate/Soldier*

**Scripture** – John 18:15–27

[After Jesus was arrested,] Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, ‘You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, ‘I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.’ When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, ‘Is that how you answer the high priest?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?’ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, ‘You are not also one of his disciples, are you?’ He denied it and said, ‘I am not.’ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, ‘Did I not see you in the garden with him?’ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

**Song** – “Ah, Holy Jesus,” *st. 1*; *text: Johann Heermann, tr. Robert Bridges, alt.*

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.

**Meditation on the Cross**

Behold the cross,  
where friendship fractured.

An altar to our shame  
where God embraced human humility.

Our great betrayal  
where God fashioned love unbroken.

## +Solemn Reproaches

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

I sent you two by two to accomplish my work in the world;

but you have conspired to sell me for silver.

When I overlooked your hidden faults, you secured my unjust conviction,  
and you have prepared a cross for your savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal  
have mercy on us.**

**Song** – “Ah, Holy Jesus,” *st. 2*

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?

Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.

'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;

I crucified thee.

**Drama** – *Judas/Thomas*

### **Prayers of the People**

God, look upon us graciously.

For as we pray tonight,

our sins are ever before us.

We feel lonely and afflicted.

We cannot bear to look at your cross.

Because there we see our misdeeds.

You know all our weakness.

Yet you have loved the world.

**You poured out your mercy.**

For all our loneliness and isolation,

we know there are others who feel

truly alone.

God, we pray for those who kneel

before their enemies—

spurned and defenseless,

helplessly, unjustly imprisoned

without an appeal,

without an advocate,

without a friend.

You have stood accused.

Yet you have loved the world.

**You poured out your mercy.**

God, we pray for those who suffer tonight.

Whether they suffer from their own choices

or someone else's cruelty;

whether they suffer from the poisonous path of a disease

or a treatment that is just as painful;

whether they suffer physical pain that twists their bodies

or spiritual pain that leaves no bruise;

we believe you understand their pain.

You have suffered in body and soul.

Yet you have loved the world.

**You poured out your mercy.**

God, we pray for this world  
that knows nothing of your healing grace.  
We pray for those who have felt betrayed  
or traumatized by your church.  
We pray for those who have never heard your name.  
We pray for those who have wandered away from you  
and all those who doubt.  
You have watched your closest friends walk away.  
Yet you have loved the world.

**You have poured out your mercy.**

God, you remain ever faithful,  
even when we fail to keep our word.  
Even when our words fail us,  
we believe you pray with us.  
You pray for us.

So we pray as Jesus taught us.

**Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Scripture** – John 18:28–19:18

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world,

my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.” Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.”

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

### **Solemn Reproach**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

In the desert, I gave the serpent on a staff  
to heal those who confess the sickness of sin,  
but you cloak your treachery.

When injustice ran its course, I watched you wash your hands  
and you have prepared a cross for your savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal  
have mercy on us.**

**Scripture** – John 19:19–25a

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.’ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, ‘Do not write, “The King of the Jews”, but, “This man said, I am King of the Jews.”’ Pilate answered, ‘What I have written I have written.’ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.’ This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

‘They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.’

And that is what the soldiers did.

**Solemn Reproach**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I would have freely given my clothes to you,  
but you stole what you desired and divided it among you.

In my shame my name became known to all people;  
but you have prepared a cross for your savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal  
have mercy on us.**

**Scripture** – John 19:25b–30

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), ‘I am thirsty.’ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Anthem** – “In All Our Grief and Fear We Turn to You,”  
arr. Thomas Keesecker

**Drama** – *Mary*/

**Song** – “Ah, Holy Jesus,” *st. 5*

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;  
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,  
not my deserving.

## **Recession**

Behold the cross.

The death of a beloved child,  
the sword to pierce a mother's soul.

The silence of God,  
the solidarity of God  
with people who bleed and die.

Vacant of justice,  
yet overflowing with forgiveness.

Behold our loss  
made the image of our salvation.

“All the ends of the earth  
shall remember  
and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations  
shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth  
shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust,  
though they be dead,  
shall kneel before the LORD.

Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim  
to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance  
to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them,  
“The LORD has acted!”

Behold the cross.

*The cross is recessed.*

## **A Blessed Reproach**

O, my people, O my church,

When you prepared a cross for your savior,

I bore the fruit of the tree of life.

When you opened my side with a spear,

I opened the waters to your promised land.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
you have had mercy on us.**

*The service concludes.*

*The people depart in silence.*

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Presiding Ministers:** Pastor Randy Gehring, Pastor Justin Kosec,  
Pastor Tim Lemme

**Organ:** Matthew Tylutki

**Cantors:** Jeanne Carter, Gene LeVasseur, and Deanna and Joel Wehrspann

**Actors:** Paul Konz, Bradley Green, Chad Mickelson, Kymberlee Selzler, and  
Camille Tollefson

**Media:** Josh Matzner

**Sound:** Matt Steinhouse

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