

# Good Friday



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

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024 • 6:30 P.M.



*Due to the solemn nature of this service, offering plates will not be passed. Please place your Good Friday offering in the offering plates located near the entrance.*

## GATHERING

**Prelude** – “O Sacred Head Now Wounded,” J. S. Bach

**Introduction to the Service**

**Invocation**

Greetings to you  
in the ✝ name of

God,  
the Beginning of Our Wonder,  
Jesus,  
the Answer to Our Imperfection,  
the Holy Spirit,  
the Response to Our Great Longing.

Now we read the Living Word,  
the Gospel according to St. John.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Reading** – John 18:1–12

### **Litany**

They came to the garden that night  
with lanterns, torches, and weapons  
to capture the Prince of Peace.

**Today we recognize we are not so different. This world of ours still chooses implements of authority to impose the will of one over the other.**

They were led to the garden  
by one of Jesus' own disciples,  
whose betrayal, however motivated,  
sent Jesus to the cross.

**Today we acknowledge that we are bound by sin and that despite our best intentions, our brokenness betrays the One whom we love and follow.**

Last night we remembered  
that Jesus offered the cup of salvation  
to his friends.

**Today we will hear the story of the day Jesus drank the cup of suffering for this whole world.**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Please pray with me.

**Jesus, prepare us for what we shall witness today. We have come here looking for you. Prepare us to follow you: from the garden where you gave yourself over to your captors, to the palaces where the powerful floundered in pursuit of truth, to the cross, where your death was the shame of all humanity—yet where God created hope that could never die. Prepare us so that we will know that you are the answer to our deepest questions. Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn – ELW, No. 349, “Ah, Holy Jesus,” sts. 1–3



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

### A Consideration for the Reading

After Jesus' arrest,  
Peter followed Jesus  
to the palace of the high priest.  
When Peter turns from the one he loves,  
the smallest sins prove  
the most terrible:  
the powerless promise,  
the little lie,  
the commonplace cowardice.  
With such small sins  
he hands over his friend to die.

**Reading** – John 18:13–27

*The assembly stands.*

### Confession

Like Peter following Jesus,  
we often arrive  
in the place  
where we fail simple tests  
as others endure great suffering.  
Now, as we confess our sins,  
I ask that you do not spare yourself.  
Do not shy away from your sin.  
Do not excuse the smallness of your sin.  
Instead, like Peter,  
let us recognize that even the gentlest sins

can tear the fabric  
of our most sacred relationships.

Our confession begins with silent reflection.

How have your actions or inaction  
betrayed the One  
whose love for you  
is unquestionably true?

*The assembly keeps silence for reflection and to confess their sins.*

Please confess with me.

**Jesus, you ask for our whole selves.**

**We bring you a small portion of our love and convince ourselves it is enough.**

**We seek full credit for half-hearted goodness.**

**We calculate the sacrificial cost of justice but content ourselves with modest exertion.**

**We tell ourselves that we love you. Then our tongues tell the world a different story.**

**We know the truth. If you were taken away from us, we might not follow. And if we followed, we might not own you.**

**Jesus, we admit every sinful word and deed that we have chosen; we admit the many good things we have also left undone.**

Normally, we would rush  
to pronounce Christ's forgiveness.

But Peter waited several agonizing days  
to know the truth of God's love  
and to feel God's restoration.

Let us practice  
carrying our sinfulness  
just a little while longer,  
for our time of confession  
is not yet complete.

**Anthem** – “Thy Will Be Done,” Craig Courtney

**Invitation to the Reading**

**Reading** – John 18:28–32

**Question for Reflection** – When have you stood in authority over others?

**Response** – “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” *st. 1*



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite  
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

**Reading** – John 18:33–40

**Question for Reflection** – When have you had to make life-or-death decisions or steered the fate of the community?

**Response** – “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” *st. 2*

**Reading** – John 19:1–5

**Response** – “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” *st. 3*

**Reading** – John 19:6–16

**Question for Reflection** – When others have abdicated responsibility to you, how did that make you feel?

*The assembly stands.*

**Prayer of Lament for the World**

The mob has spoken.  
The verdict is in,  
but We pray together.

Creator God,  
as humankind has stretched across this world  
from the safety of your garden,  
we no longer look to you  
to understand our needs.

God, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We have created needs  
that push us  
to plunder your creation.  
We leech dry the aquifers  
and spoil the oceans  
and sift the species of the earth.  
We leave nothing untouched,  
and we cannot heal what we spoil.  
God, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

When the harvest leaves the field,  
there is more than enough for every table.  
But some hoard the best  
and waste the rest  
while many wait hungry  
for what little is left.  
God, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You govern with peaceable harmony,  
but when nations erupt in war  
we abandon the slow methods of peace.  
We scramble for stronger weapons  
to end the fight.  
God, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You administer justice,  
but when we create the rules  
law consorts with hatred  
and violence kisses justice.  
We perpetuate inequality.  
We victimize generations of the same families.  
And the powerful twist systems of order  
to freely select their victims.  
The leaders we choose  
abuse the trust of their people;  
they amplify fear  
through lies and misinformation.  
God, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**


**We want no part in this. We want a world of peace. We want to choose the good and plant something fruitful.**

**We despise those who have abandoned principle to satisfy the braying crowd.**


**Then, somehow, we find ourselves shouting, Crucify.**

We are trapped in this world.  
 We find ourselves holding its pieces  
 and we know we have broken  
 some part of it ourselves.  
 God, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

**Sending Hymn – “Were You There,” sts. 1, 2**



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?




Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*Refrain*



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual

**Question for Reflection** – How do you respond to the unfolding of inevitable circumstance?

**Reading** – John 19:16–37

**Question for Reflection** – When have you found yourself choosing between Jesus and the world?

**Absolution**

We hear these words of scripture  
 and we could  
 believe  
 that they describe  
 someone else’s sins,  
 but we know  
 we play a part in this story.

Because we believe  
 that when Jesus died on the cross,

he suffered for our sins,  
and he forgave our sins, too.

Tonight we have claimed our sinfulness  
so we might embrace God's forgiveness.

**God, we have confessed to you and to one another and before the whole company of heaven that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Will your promise of forgiveness cover the multitude of our sins?**

We have not loved you  
with our whole heart,  
and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others  
as we have been forgiven.

**Yet these sins are forgiven.**

We have shut our ears  
to your call to serve  
as Christ served us.  
We have not been true  
to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Yet these sins are forgiven.**

We have let unfaithfulness,  
pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy  
infect our lives.

**Yet these sins are forgiven.**

We feed our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and exploit other people.

**Yet these sins are forgiven.**

We neglect to pray and worship,  
and we fail to share the faith that is in us.

**Yet these sins are forgiven.**

We neglect human need and suffering,  
and we feel indifferent to injustice and cruelty.

**Yet these sins are forgiven.**

We judge our neighbors falsely  
and harbor uncharitable thoughts toward them;  
we reinforce prejudice and  
contempt toward those who differ from us.

**Yet these sins are forgiven.**

We waste and pollute your creation,  
and we lack concern  
for those who come after us.

**Yet these sins are forgiven.**



You have restored us, O God,  
and your anger has departed from us.  
**You have heard us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### **Streptitus**

*The book is closed. The Christ Candle is extinguished*

*Silence follows the Streptitus.*

### **Invitation to Meditation**

**Solo** – “Were You There,” *st.* 5

**Reading** – John 19:38–42

*The Christ Candle is removed.*

### **Sending**

*Come forward and leave your nail at the cross. You are invited to stay or to depart in silence.*

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Presiding Ministers:** Pastor Paul Svingen and Pastor Tim Lemme

**Organ:** Christopher Larson

**Choir:** Our Savior’s Choir, directed by Gene LeVasseur, accompanied by  
Christopher Larson

**Readers:** Curt Olson and Ryan Oorlog

**Media:** Josh Matzner

**Sound:** Andy Steinhouse

*Artwork by Gary Gaede*



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### Calvary

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.



Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, His devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

Jesus was self educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the Good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.