



GOOD FRIDAY

Grace Lutheran Church
Friday, April 3, 2026
12:00 & 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY
Service of Darkness
April 3, 2026

✠ **PREPARATION** ✠

PRELUDE

"The Road to Calvary"
"Prelude for Good Friday"

E. Broughton
S. Scott

Stand

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PROPHECY OF THE SUFFERING AND DEATH OF OUR LORD

RESPONSIVE READING, *Pastor & Congregation*

Isaiah 53:1–4

¹Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²**For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;**
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³**He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;**
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴**Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;**

yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB 451 st. 1

1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.

RESPONSIVE READING,

Isaiah 53:5–6

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
**upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.**

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
**and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.**

HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB 451 st. 2

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 53.7-9

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

**⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?**

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB 451 st. 3

Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 53:11–13

¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
**by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.**

¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
**yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.**

HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB 451 st. 4

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sine I know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

P By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

FIRST WORD, *Elder*

Reading, *John 19:14–16*

A ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Reading, *Luke 23:32–34*

A ³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

HYMN

"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

447 sts. 1–3



1 Je - sus, in Your dy - ing woes, E - ven while Your
2 Sav - ior, for our par - don sue When our sins Your
3 Oh, may we, who mer - cy need, Be like You in

life - blood flows, Crav - ing par - don for Your foes:
 pangs re - new, For we know not what we do:
 heart and deed, When with wrong our spir - its bleed:

Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

Prayer

P Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, you did not seek revenge on those who tormented you. When You were nailed to the cross, You prayed for forgiveness for those who caused You to suffer. Give to us the virtues of gentleness, patience, and a forgiving spirit, that we may repay evil with good. Teach us also to love our enemies, and as children of the heavenly Father, to live in peace with all people.

C Amen.

(The first candle is extinguished)

SECOND WORD

Reading, *Luke 23:35–43*

A ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."
³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when

you come into your kingdom.”⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

HYMN

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

LSB 447 sts. 4-6

Jesus, pitying the sighs
Of the thief, who near You dies,
Promising him paradise:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we in our guilt and shame
Still Your love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on Your name:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May our hearts to You incline
And their thoughts Your cross entwine.
Cheer our souls with hope divine:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your infinite mercy You heard the plea of the thief dying on the cross next to You. We pray that You would open our hearts in mercy to welcome those who turn to You, and rejoice in their salvation. When our last hour comes, hold us firm in our faith, and bring us also to live with You in Paradise.

C Amen.

(The second candle is extinguished)

THIRD WORD

Reading, *John 19:25–27*

A ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother,

“Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

HYMN

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

LSB 447 sts. 7-9

Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose heart Your sorrows rend,
And Your dearest human friend:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we in Your sorrows share,
For Your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy Your tender care:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
May we all Your loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving, since Your love we see:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, while You suffered the agony of the cross, Your thoughts turned to the welfare of others. Your concern was for Your mother in her sorrow. We pray that You would regard with pity all parents who mourn the death of their children, and all parents who sorrow because their children have suffered tribulations or forsaken their faith. By the power of Your healing, we pray that parents and children may know peace, and that relationships may be restored.

C **Amen.**

(The third candle is extinguished)

FOURTH WORD

Reading, *Matthew 27:45–47*

The Death of Jesus

- A** ⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah."

HYMN

"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

LSB 447 sts. 10-12

Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from heav'n is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

When we seem in vain to pray
And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Though no Father seem to hear,
Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
Lord God, Father of all people and Creator of all that exists, You hold all people in Your power. We pray that You would not forsake the world which Your Son died to redeem. Even though we still see the influence of sin and evil all around us, assure us of Your continued presence in our midst. Help us to know Your love in our lives, so we can show Your presence to others.

C **Amen.**

(The fourth Candle is extinguished)

FIFTH WORD

Reading, *Matthew 10:38–42*

- A** ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
⁴⁰“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

Reading, *John 19:28–29*

The Death of Jesus

- A** ²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

HYMN

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

LSB 447 sts. 13-15

Jesus, in Your thirst and pain,
While Your wounds Your lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Thirst for us in mercy still;
All Your holy work fulfill;
Satisfy Your loving will:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we thirst Your love to know.
Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, You endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place. We thirst for the healing that only You can provide. When we find ourselves suffering, give us peace and patience to endure the pain that comes our way. Comfort us with the memory of the cross, and use this to give us the strength we need to bear our burdens.

C Amen.

(The fifth candle is extinguished)

SIXTH WORD

Reading, *Hebrews 9:11–12, 27–28*

Redemption Through the Blood of Christ

A ¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Reading, *John 19:30*

A ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

HYMN

"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

LSB 447 sts. 16-18

Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All Your Father's will obeyed;

By Your suff'rings perfect made:

Hear us, holy Jesus.

Save us in our soul's distress;

Be our help to cheer and bless

While we grow in holiness:

Hear us, holy Jesus.

Brighten all our heav'nward way

With an ever holier ray

Till we pass to perfect day:

Hear us, holy Jesus.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your Father. We pray that You would complete in us also everything that You intend for us, so that as children of the heavenly Father, we may live for His glory.

C Amen.

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

SEVENTH WORD

Reading *Luke 23:44–46*

The Death of Jesus

A ⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Reading *Matthew 27:54*

- A** ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Prayer

- P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, as You gave Your life on the cross in our place, You commended Your spirit into the loving hands of Your heavenly Father. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things. When our last hour comes, grant us peace that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the hands of our heavenly Father.

- C** **Amen.**

HYMN

"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

LSB 447 sts. 19-21

Jesus, all Your labor vast,
All Your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up Your soul at last:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

When the death shades round us low'r,
Guard us from the tempter's pow'r,
Keep us in that trial hour:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May Your life and death supply
Grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Stand

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive

forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(The seventh candle is extinguished)

(The Christ candle is carried out. During the darkness, please meditate on Christ's suffering and death. After a time, a loud noise symbolizes the earthquake at the time of Christ death. After the loud noise, the candle will be returned to its place, symbolizing that our redemption is complete)

LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

(The Congregation is invited to remain in prayer and meditation during the playing of the Postlude. Those choosing to leave are requested to do so quietly.)

POSTLUDE

"Were You There"

arr. D. Wells

Acknowledgments

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