

# GOOD FRIDAY

April 18, 2025

**AS WE GATHER:** Good Friday is the second part of the three day service called the Triduum. This Friday we call good is a time of somber reflection as we are attentive to the mystery of the cross. The service seems rather austere in comparison to last night and Easter to come. The fact is that we are celebrating a death only because from that death flow forgiveness and life. We are part of this story, though from a distance. It was for our sins our Lord suffered and died. We may be separated from the actual events by several thousand years but we are part of this story. It was for us that He suffered and died and it was to us that He gives the fruits of His suffering and death. As powerful as this message is, the story continues for one more day with one more dramatic event still to come.

Because of the somber character of the services of Holy Week, and especially Good Friday, it is appropriate to begin the service in silence. Any organ music should be limited to the simple accompaniment of the hymns. Choral music should be limited to anthems that reflect the sober message of the cross and do not detract from the essential focus of the story accurately reflecting selected texts and readings.

## + PREPARATION +

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

*(Silence for reflection)*

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## + WORD +

### FIRST READING

Genesis 3:1-15  
*(The Loss of Innocence)*

Pew Bible Page 5

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

### HYMN

"All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall" v. 1-2

**LSB 562**

**All mankind fell in Adam's fall;  
One common sin infects us all.  
From one to all the curse descends,  
And over all God's wrath impends.**

**Through all our pow'rs corruption creeps  
And us in dreadful bondage keeps;  
In guilt we draw our infant breath  
And reap its fruits of woe and death.**

### SECOND READING

Isaiah 7: 10-14  
*(The Messiah Is Promised)*

Pew Bible Page 1069

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

### PSALM

Psalms 130

Pew Bible Page 969

### THIRD READING

Matthew 1:18-25  
*(The promise is fulfilled.)*

Pew Bible Page 1497

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

### HYMN

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" v 1 & 3

**LSB 352**

**Let the earth now praise the Lord  
Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

**Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.**

Text: Sts. 1 & 3: Heinrich Held, 1620-59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

### FOURTH READING

Matthew 16:13-16, 21; 20: 17-19  
*(The Savior is welcomed to His mission.)*

Pew Bible Page 1497

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

### HYMN

"O Perfect Life of Love"

Chancel Choir

## SERMON

### FIFTH READING *(The plot is hatched.)*

*(A harmony of the Gospel accounts) adapted from LSB*

The festival of the Unleavened Bread called Passover was near. Before the festival, Jesus knew the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had loved His own who were in the world and He loved them to the end. He said to His disciples, "After two days the Passover will be celebrated and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

**Then the ruling priest, elders of the people, and the scribes met in the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas. They were looking for some way to arrest Jesus and kill Him but they were afraid the people might riot. So they put it off, waiting until after the festival of the Passover.**

Then Satan entered into Judas, one of the Twelve, and he went to the ruling priests and captains of the Temple and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. "What will you give me if I hand Him over to you?" he asked. They were happy to hear it and agreed to give him 30 pieces of silver. He promised to do it and from then on he looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

**Then came the Festival of the Unleavened Bread and Jesus sat at Passover with His disciples. "I tell you, I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God," said Jesus.**

As the disciples were quarreling among themselves to decide who was greatest, Jesus took a basin of water and began to wash their feet. "Do you know why I have done this? I have given you an example so that you will do as I have done. Whoever would be great should be like the one who serves. I have chosen to be among you as one who serves."

**Later Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth; one of you will betray Me." The disciples stared at one another wondering who Jesus meant. Judas who was dipping his food into the dish with Jesus asked, "You do not mean me, do You?" "I do," said Jesus. And Judas left the place.**

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Take and eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." After supper, He took the cup and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you. This is My blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this often in remembrance of Me." And after they had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

### HYMN

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" v. 1-2

**LSB 436**

**Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the worm-wood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn of Him to bear the cross.**

### SIXTH READING

*(The condemnation is carried out.)*

*(A harmony of the Gospel accounts) adapted from LSB*

Judas knew the place where Jesus went and took a troop of soldiers and Temple guards there. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss. "Friend," asked Jesus, "Will you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

**Then they came and took hold of Jesus, arrested Him, and led Him bound away to the High Priest's palace. First they stopped to see Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas who was High Priest that year.**

He inquired of Jesus about Jesus' disciples and teaching. Jesus insisted that He had taught publicly and had not said anything in secret. Still bound, they took Him to Caiaphas. They tried to find a charge which would stick against Jesus but found none. The witnesses disagreed and gave false testimony. Finally two men agreed saying, "He said, 'I will tear down God's Temple and in three days build another'." Still it was not enough.

**The High Priest asked Jesus but Jesus did not answer until the High Priest insisted that Jesus swear by the living God that He was the Christ, the Son of the Blessed. To this Jesus said, "I am." At last they had a charge and the priests tore their robes in mock outrage. "He has blasphemed! He is guilty and deserves to die!"**

At dawn they brought Jesus before the whole Council and repeated what had taken place. Then they ordered Him over to death and took Him to Pilate. They could not go into Pilate's house or they would be ritually unclean for the Sabbath so Pilate came out to them.

**"What is the charge," Pilate asked. "He is a criminal deserving of death," they answered. "Take Him yourselves and judge Him," Pilate responded. But they insisted. So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you King of the Jews?" And Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not of this world." "Then You are a king?" asked Pilate. "I am;" said Jesus, "for this I was born that I might testify to the Truth."**

Pilate did not find Jesus guilty of death and did not want to sentence Him to death. When Pilate heard Jesus was from Galilee, He sent Him to Herod who was in Jerusalem for the Festival. Herod was glad to see Jesus and hoped to see a miracle. But Jesus did not say a word to Herod so they took him back to Pilate.

**Pilate continued to protest saying, "I have examined this Man and found Him innocent of the things of which you accuse Him. So I will have Him whipped and let Him go."**

There was a tradition of releasing one prisoner at the Festival so Pilate asked if he should set Jesus free. "No," the crowd insisted. "Give us Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a ruthless murderer so Pilate asked again if he should let Jesus go. "No," they insisted all the more. "Away with Jesus. Crucify Him!" A third time Pilate asked them and they shouted all the louder, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Their shouts overpowered Pilate.

**The soldiers took Jesus' clothes off and mocked Him, placing a scarlet robe on Him, twisting a crown out of thorns, and kneeling in feigned devotion. Pilate brought out Jesus to the crowd again and insisted they look at Him. They cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!" Pilate washed his hands of the guilt of this innocent Man but handed Jesus over to be crucified. Pilate was afraid if he did not go along with the crowd a riot would develop. The soldiers took off the robe and crown and led Him away to be crucified.**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**HYMN** "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" v. 1 & 3: **LSB 451**

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He.  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord.  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'tis the true and faithful Word.**

**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.**

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855, alt., Public domain

Tune: O MEIN JESU, ICH MUSS STERBEN, *Geistliche Volkslieder*, Paderborn, 1850, Public domain

**SEVENTH READING** (*The cross and agony endured*)  
(*A harmony of the Gospel accounts*) adapted from LSB

The soldiers took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. So they took Jesus and led Him out to crucify Him.

**He was carrying His own cross. As they were going out, they found a man from Cyrene by the name of Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus. He was on his way in from the country, and as he was about to pass by, they took hold of him, laid the cross on him, and forced him to carry it behind Jesus.**

A large crowd of people followed Him. The women in the crowd were beating their breasts and weeping over Him. He turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not continue to cry over Me; rather, cry over yourselves and your children..."

**They took Jesus to what was called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.**

They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh and gall, but when He tasted it, He refused to drink it. They crucified Him there. At the time they crucified two robbers with Him, one at His right and the other at His left, Jesus in the middle. It was nine in the morning when they crucified Him.

**Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier, throwing dice for them to see what each one should get, and the tunic was left over. The tunic was without a seam, woven in one piece from top to bottom. They said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but let's throw dice and see who gets it"-in this way what the Scripture said was fulfilled, "They divided My clothes among them, and for My garment they threw dice." So that is what the soldiers did. Then they sat down there and kept watch over Him.

**Pilate also wrote a notice, the accusation that had been written against Him they placed above His head on the cross. It read:**

**THIS IS JESUS FROM NAZARETH  
THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

Many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. Therefore the ruling priests of the Jews told Pilate, "Do not write: 'The King of the Jews,' but: 'He said I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

**The people stood there watching. Those who passed by ridiculed Him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You who are going to tear down the Temple and build it in three days--- save Yourself if You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."**

In the same way the ruling priests together with the scribes and elders sneered and made fun of Him among themselves and said, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He should save Himself if He is the Christ whom God has chosen. If He is Israel's King; He should come down from the cross now, and we shall believe Him. He has put His trust in God, let God rescue Him now if He so wishes, for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

**The soldiers also made fun of Him when they went up to Him and offered Him sour wine. They said, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."**

In the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him also were insulting Him. One of the criminals who was hanging there was mocking Him: "Aren't You the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"

**But the other, warning him, asked, "Aren't you afraid of God? You are condemned just as He is. Our punishment is just, for we are getting what we deserve for what we've done, but this One has done nothing wrong."**

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to him, "today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Now, His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary from Magdala were standing near the cross of Jesus.

Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near. "Woman," He said to His mother, "there is your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "There is your mother!"

From that time on this disciple took her into his own home.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**HYMN** "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes": v 7-9  
[Third Word: John 19:26-27]

**LSB 447**

**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.**

**EIGHTH READING** (*The suffering leads to death.*)

(*A harmony of the Gospel accounts*) adapted from LSB

It was about noon when darkness came over the whole land, lasting until three in the afternoon, because the sun stopped shining.

**About three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?" When they heard Him say that, some of those standing nearby said, "Listen! He calls Elijah."**

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to have the words of the Scripture come true, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

**A jar full of sour wine was standing there. Immediately one of the men ran, took a sponge, soaked it in sour wine, put it on a hyssop stem, held it to His mouth, and offered Him a drink. The others said, "Let's see if Elijah comes to save Him."**

When Jesus had taken the wine, He said, "It is finished!"

**And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit." After He said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Just then the inner curtain in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and the bodies of many believers (saints) who had been sleeping were brought back to life. They came out of the tombs after He had risen and went into the Holy City where they appeared to many people.**

When the captain who stood facing Jesus saw how He gave up His spirit, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this Man was righteous!" Now when the captain and those watching Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the other things happening, they were terrified. "Certainly this was the Son of God!" they said.

**When all the people who had gathered to view this incident saw what was happening, they beat their breasts and turned back.**

All His friends, including many women, stood at a distance and watched. Among them were Mary from Magdala and Mary the mother of James the Younger and of Joseph, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. While He was in Galilee, they had followed Him and supported Him. They had followed Jesus from Galilee and had come up to Jerusalem with Him.

**Since it was the day of preparation and the Jews did not want the bodies to stay on the crosses on the Sabbath, because that Sabbath was an important day, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the men broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other who had been crucified with Him.**

But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers stuck a spear into His side, and immediately blood and water came out. He who saw it has testified about it, and his testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth so that you also will believe.

**In this way what the Scripture said was fulfilled: "None of His bones shall be broken." And another Scripture passage says: "They will look at Him whom they pierced."**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

## **HYMN**

"O Dearest Jesus" v. 1, 4, 5

**LSB 439**

**O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,  
What dark transgression?**

**What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,  
Who would not know Him.**

**The sinless Son of God must die in sadness,  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;  
God is committed.**

## **NINTH READING**

*(The tomb is secured.)*

*(A harmony of the Gospel accounts) adapted from LSB*

In the evening there came a rich man by the name of Joseph from Arimathea, a Jewish town. He was an important member of the Jewish council (Sanhedrin), a good and righteous man, who waited for the Kingdom of God. He was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, because he was afraid of the Jews. He had not agreed to their plan of action.

**Since it was already evening on the day of preparation, which is the day before the Sabbath, Joseph from Arimathea got up the courage to go to Pilate and ask Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus.**

Pilate wondered whether Jesus was already dead. So he called the captain and asked him, "Has He died already?" And when he was assured of this by the captain, Pilate ordered that the body be given to Joseph.

**Joseph bought some linen and came and took Jesus' body down. Then Nicodemus also came, the one who had first come to Jesus at night. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about 75 pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in a clean linen cloth according to Jewish custom of burying the dead.**

There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was Joseph's own new tomb that he had cut in the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. So they laid Jesus there, because it was the Jewish day of preparation and the Sabbath was just beginning and the tomb was near.

**The women who had come with Him from Galilee followed closely behind. Mary from Magdala and the other Mary, the mother of Joses, were there. Sitting opposite the tomb, they watched where and how His body was laid. After rolling a large stone against the door of the tomb, Joseph went away. Then the women went back and prepared spices and perfumes. But on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.**

The next day, the day after the day of preparation, the ruling priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. The said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said while He was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, to keep His disciples from coming to steal Him and saying to the people, 'He rose from the dead.' For then the last deception will be worse than the first."

**"Take a guard," Pilate told them; "go and make it as secure as you know how." So they went out and secured the tomb by sealing the stone and setting the guard.**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**HYMN** "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" v. 1, 2 & 3  
**LSB 456**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?**

Text: African American spiritual, 19<sup>th</sup> century, alt., Public domain

Tune: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual, 19<sup>th</sup> century, alt., Public domain

## **VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**Pastor:** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

**People:** **O come, let us worship Him.**

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**HYMN** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" v. 1-3 & 5 **LSB 450**

**O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown;  
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

**How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!  
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!  
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;  
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.**

**What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

## BIDDING PRAYER

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### LORD'S PRAYER (whispered)

**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 sound of the strepitus is heard, a harsh noise signifying the earthquake at the crucifixion, the closing of the tomb, and the clash between God and Satan.*

***(All leave in silence.)***

The story is not yet over. Join us Easter Morning

Sunrise Service at 7 am

Fellowship from 8-8:45 am

Easter Service at 9 am

Fellowship from 10-10:45 am

### **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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### **PARTICIPATING:**

Worship Leader/Preacher

Pastor Justin D. Kane

Organist

Mrs. Kolleen Hosford

Worship Elders

(11:00)

Mr. Gene Brown

(6:30)

Mr. Mike Carper