



# WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

**LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH** welcomes you as you join with us in worship this day. May the Holy Spirit bless you with the message you hear from God's Word, the prayers, the hymns, and the fellowship we share with you. Here is some information you might find helpful:

- Children of all ages are welcome in our worship services. If you need to step out for a moment with your child, a Family Room is located right outside the Sanctuary doors.
- Changing Tables are located in the Restrooms.
- Please fill out an attendance sheet in the pad on the chairs and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Guests: We promise we will not bombard you with emails or calls, but this information is helpful for staying in touch.
- Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## Good Friday: The Penitent Thief

April 7, 2023

*And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

—Luke 23:43—

### Welcome/Announcements

#### Call to Worship

Psalm 22:1-2, 14-19, 27-28

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C** Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

**P** O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

**C** And by night, but I find no rest ...

**P** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

**C** My heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

**P** My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

**C** You lay me in the dust of death.

**P** For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

**C** They have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;

**P** They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

**C** But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! ...

**P** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

**C** For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

#### Hymn: “O Perfect Life of Love”

LSB 452

O perfect life of love!  
All, all is finished now,  
All that he left his throne above  
to do for us below.

No work is left undone  
of all the Father willed;  
His toil, his sorrows, one by one.  
The Scriptures have fulfilled.

And on his thorn-crowned head  
and on his sinless soul  
Our sins in all their guilt were laid  
that he might make us whole.

In perfect love he dies;  
for me, he dies, for me.  
O all-atoning Sacrifice,  
I cling by faith to thee.

Yet work O Lord, in me  
as thou for me hast wrought;  
And let my love the answer be  
to grace thy love has brought.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** One of the thieves crucified near Jesus recognized the innocent King crowned with thorns. The thief acknowledged his sins and repented, moved by God's grace to turn in faith to his King and Savior. Let us confess our sins and seek God's mercy.

**C** **Almighty God, like the repentant thief crucified with our King, we admit our sins. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We have followed our own selfish desires instead of following your will for our lives. Listening to the temptations of the world around us, we turn from your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**P** God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Suffering on the cross, Jesus took onto himself the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. Like the repentant thief, we have received the grace and mercy of our King. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C** **Jesus was pierced for our transgressions, and with his wounds we are healed!**

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Almighty God, as by your grace the repentant thief recognized his King, you have graciously led us to acknowledge and worship Jesus as our King and Savior. On this holy day, we remember his sacrifice on the cross. By his death he destroyed the one who had the power of death, the devil, our accuser. Through faith in Christ our Lord and King, we receive forgiveness for our sins and from him we receive the promise of eternal life. Until the day when we walk with our King in paradise,

teach us to live as citizens of his kingdom, reflecting his love and mercy to others so that they, too, might come to know and worship him as King. Hear our prayer and receive our praise in Jesus' name.

**G Amen.**

## **God Speaks to us Through Isaiah**

Isaiah 53:7-12

**P** He 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. By 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? And 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. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out 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. Therefore 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.

## **God Speaks to Us Through the Author of Hebrews**

Hebrews 2:14-18

**P** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

## **God Speaks to Us Through His Son**

Luke 23:39-43

**P** One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

## Hymn: "Upon the Cross Extended"

LSB 453

Upon the cross extended  
see, world, your Lord suspended.  
Your Savior yields his breath.  
The Prince of Life from heaven  
Himself has freely given  
to shame and blows and bitter death.

Your soul in griefs unbounded,  
your head with thorns surrounded,  
You died to ransom me.  
The cross for me enduring,  
The crown for me securing,  
you healed my wounds and set me free.

## Sermon: "Grace for the Guilty"

Luke 23:39-43

## Hymn: "Upon the Cross Extended"

LSB 453

Your cords of love, my Savior,  
bind me to you forever,  
I am no longer mine.  
To you I gladly tender  
All that my life can render  
and all I have to you resign.

Your cross I place before me;  
its saving pow'r restore me,  
Sustain me in the test.  
It will, when life is ending.  
Be guiding and attending  
my way to your eternal rest.

## Offering Will Be Collected at the Door

*(Our offerings give us an opportunity to give thanks to God for the many ways He has blessed us. Members and regular attendees support God's mission and ministry as He works through this congregation. Guests are welcome to give an offering but are not expected to do so. Psalm 54:6; 116:12-14, 17)*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for your grace, your undeserved favor for sinners. By your death on the cross you have defeated death for us. Our sins are forgiven, washed away in your blood. Gracious Lord,

**C** Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

**P** Lord Jesus, on the cross you promised paradise to the repentant thief who died near you on that Good Friday. By the power of the Holy Spirit, grant us true repentance and forgive our sins. Be present with us until we live with you in paradise. Gracious Lord,

**C** Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

**P** Lord Jesus, you spoke in mercy to the thief and you forgave those who crucified you. We ask your mercy for those who suffer illness and loss. Comfort them and fill them with hope through the promises of your Word. Lead us to serve and help them in your name. Gracious Lord,

**C** Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

**P** Lord Jesus, as we study your Word and remember your sacrificial death, help us to grow in grace. We look forward to the day of resurrection and the sure hope of eternal life in paradise with you. Gracious Lord,

**C** Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

**P** Lord Jesus, the thief on the cross recognized you, crowned with thorns, as his King. We, too, recognize and acknowledge you as King. Help us to live as faithful citizens of your kingdom, to live in love and service to others and to be witnesses for you. Gracious Lord,

**C** Have mercy on us and hear our prayer. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**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.

## Closing Words

**P** He was pierced for our transgressions;

**C** He was crushed for our iniquities;

**P** Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

**C** And with his wounds we are healed.

Hymn Prelude: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Joshua Pillows

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

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.

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 thanks 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,  
Out-live my love for Thee.

## **Removal of the Christ Candle**

*Reminder that our Savior hung in darkness for three God-forsaken hours  
before He died for the sins of the world.*

## **Tolling of the Bell**

*The bell is tolled 33 times in remembrance of the years Christ walked  
this earth.*

## **Streptitus**

*Sounded to symbolize the closing of Christ's tomb.*

*We depart once more in solemn silence*

**The service continues Easter morning:**

**Easter Sunrise Service: 6:45AM**

**Easter Celebration Services: 9:15 & 11:00AM**