



Lutheran Church & Christian School



Good Friday
"Finished!"

April 7, 2023

Redeemed, Restored, & Rejoicing in Jesus!

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AS WE GATHER

Jesus had no epitaph. Buried in a borrowed tomb, no words were emblazoned across His grave. Instead, during the Savior's final hours, He paved a way through suffering with a new Word – a new command, remembered and recited throughout the ages – a simple sentence, a tiny touchstone along His way of sorrows to see us through our own and into the care of others. His Word still beckons us as He is given and shed “for you.” “Finished!!” Truly it is a Word that bestows life – now, for eternity.

Please Note: today's service ends in silence. Of the three services of Holy Week, this service stands at the crux of the other two. As we have come to reflect on the last words of Christ from the cross, we realize in faith these are not His last and final words. There are still more to come – on the other side of the grave. His resurrection is certain. There is no greater promise. There is no greater gift! Please return on Sunday to hear the greatest Word of all: “He is risen, indeed!”

PRELUDE

As worshipers enter the service, you are invited to process forward toward the chancel, where a large wooden cross has been placed. A Hammer and nails are provided. Adults please assist children, as all worshipers are invited to contemplate Christ's sacrifice by hammering individual nails into the crossbeams.

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS *(33 times for each year of our Lord's earthly life.)*

OPENING PRAYER “Father, Forgive Them” *(Words & Music by Andrew Peterson)*

APPROACHING THE WORD

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

P The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ✠ the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you all.

C **And also with you.**

P "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

C **"It is finished!"**

P "The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God."

C **"It is finished!"**

P "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

C **"It is finished!"**

P "The grass withers, the flower fades; but the Word of our God will stand forever."

C **"It is finished!"**

HYMN OF INVITATION "With Words that Last Forever"

[TUNE: *LSB 449*]

With words that last forever You speak in richest grace,
Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, upon Your cross disgraced.

With open ears I listen, with open mind believe,
With open heart embrace You: I, Lord, Your words receive.

"Forgiveness" granted sinners, and "Paradise, today!"

"Behold your son, your mother!" to family You say.

The air is split with anguish in Your "Forsaken" cry,
As "Thirsty," work "Accomplished," in "Father's hands" You die.

Pray, sanctify the silence with which I contemplate
Your boundless love for sinners, Your sacrifice so great,

Till at the tomb I waken to Your new Word for me:
These words, not last, but lasting, shall ring eternally!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty and everlasting God, who willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross, and so remove from us the power of the adversary to accuse, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion, that we may receive forgiveness for our sins, and salvation to eternal life for all who believe this Promise; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (*He was pierced for our transgression.*)

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
He shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—
His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵ so shall He sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths because of Him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

53 Who has believed what He has 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.

⁵ But He was pierced for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His wounds we are healed.

⁶ All 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.

⁷ 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.
⁸ 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?
⁹ 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.
¹⁰ 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.
¹¹ 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.
¹² 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.



EPISTLE READING Hebrews 4:15-16; 5:7-9 (*Jesus the great High Priest.*)

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ... ⁷ [Who] in the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸ Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

OUR SAVIOR SPOKE

(*Words © Gregory Wismar, TUNE: LSB 444*)

**Our Savior spoke with seven words as on the cross He died;
Through pain and sorrow echoed hope when He was crucified.
And with His labor at its end – His hours of passion done;
His finished work to God He gave as ever-faithful Son.**

GOSPEL READING John 8:1-11 (*Forgiveness full and free.*)

P The holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[One day, as Jesus was teaching in the temple] ³ the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶ This they said to test Him, that they might have some charge to bring against Him. Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask Him, He stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once more He bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before Him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “Our Savior Speaks in Love”

[TUNE: *LSB 424*]

1. Our Savior speaks in love to sinners in their need.
Oh, hear the message from above; His gracious promise heed.
2. “Tis finished,” says the Lord. The burden on Him laid
Of sinful thought and deed and word – the debt is fully paid.
3. Our Savior speaks; may we give heed to ev’ry word,
And grace be given faithfully to trust what we have heard.

MEDITATION “Finished!”

Notes:

HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

LSB 447:16-18

16. Jesus, all our ransom paid, all Your Father’s will obeyed;
By Your suff’rings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.
17. Save us in our soul’s distress; be our help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness: hear us, holy Jesus.
18. Brighten all our heav’nward way with an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day: hear us, holy Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we mark the forty days of Lent with repentance and forgiveness, let us pray
for the renewal of the Church and the restoration of the world to the life of
God in Christ.

Silence for time of personal reflection.

Each petition concludes with the following response:

C Complete what You have begun in us, O Lord.

Additional petitions may be offered.

P Gracious Father, listen to the prayers that flow from our lips, and sustain us with the forgiveness won by Your Son's Passion, death and resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OFFERTORY

[Noon] "Didn't He?"

(Words & Music by Randy Matthews)

[7:00 p.m.] "Were You There?"

(Pauline Brusco, Vocalist)

For those desiring to leave an offering, an offering plate will be placed in the rear of the sanctuary. You may leave your offering as you depart this evening's worship.

LITANY OF THE CROSS

Pastor: Jesus, Son of God and Redeemer of the world:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, sold by Judas for thirty pieces of silver:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, betrayed by a friend with a kiss:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, bound by the soldiers and forsaken by the disciples:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, found guilty and sentenced to death:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, denied three times by Peter:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, rejected in favor of Barabbas:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, whipped and bruised for our sins:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, covered with a scarlet robe and crowned with thorns:

Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, demanded for crucifixion by Your own:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, laden with the heavy weight of the cross:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, stripped of Your garments and nailed to the cross.
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, declaring Yourself forsaken by the cross.
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, crying out in agony that it is finished:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, pierced with spear and taken down from the cross:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Jesus, laid in the tomb:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Congregation: Grant us Your peace.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Prayed softly.)*

Pastor: Taught by our Lord, and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
**Congregation: 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.**

[7:00 p.m.] EXITING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Christ candle is taken from the sanctuary as the lights are completely turned off. After a brief time, a loud noise (the **strepitus**) is heard, symbolizing the closing of the tomb, the earthquake at the time of Christ's death, and the "closing of the book" on Jesus' sacrifice and our sin. After a time, the Christ candle is then returned to its place at the altar, symbolizing that "it is finished." Our redemption is complete.*

IT IS FINISHED

Pastor: For all the sins that ever were, and for all the sins that are, and for all the sins that ever will be – may they be nailed to the cross of Christ forever.

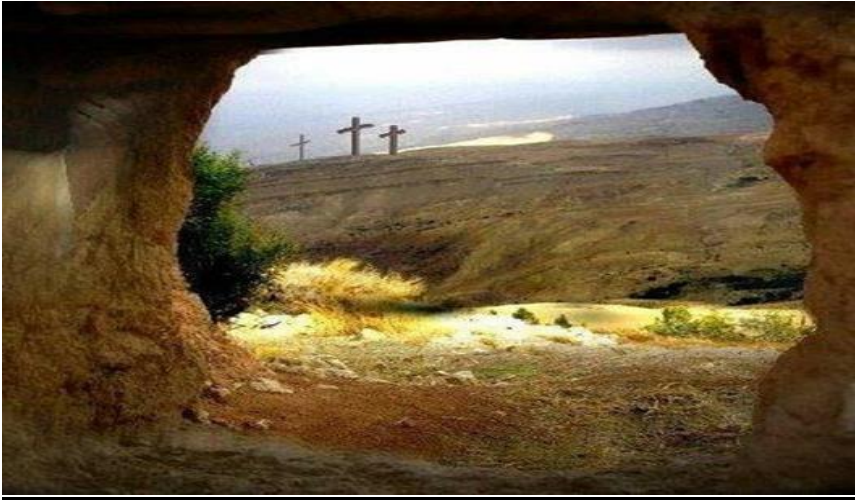
Congregation: Amen.

The pastor and worshipers leave the church in silence.

Those wishing to do so may stay as long as they wish for further meditation.

God's people gather again in "three days" to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. Light breakfast after the first service, with Bible Study @ 9:00 a.m.

Acknowledgments: Portions of the service are adapted from: "*Words that Last Forever!*" by Arden Mead © 2010 Creative Communication for the Parish, Fenton, Missouri; *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish*, Series A, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House; *other music and streaming license used by permission: CCLI License # 500626*



“7 for LIFE”

Easter Sunday: “Alleluia!”

**6:00 am Easter Sunrise Worship with
Holy Communion**

Easter Breakfast after Sunrise Worship

9:00 am, Adult Bible Study

**10:30 am Easter Worship with
Holy Communion**

Traditional American Spiritual

“Were You There?”

Verse 1

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?

Verse 2

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?

Verse 3

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 laid Him in the tomb?

Verse 4

Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

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