

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

## **Good Friday**

April 3, 2026

"In Nomine Iesu"

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## **Savior, Servant, Friend**

### **Savior**

**Welcome.** In this service for Good Friday, we remember most profoundly that Jesus is our Savior, who died on the cross to reunite us with God and one another.

As we gather:

*Tenebrae* is the Latin word for “darkness.” As the candles are extinguished and lights dim, we reflect on our Lord’s passion and death through Psalms and readings. At the end of this service, when the darkness of our sin is at its deepest and the powers of evil have apparently won, the light of Christ’s resurrection shines deeply into us, scattering the darkness in our hearts and minds.

Although this service is solemn in nature, tonight we worship with joy as God’s beloved children, His forgiven people, and we give thanks for the perfect life which Jesus offered as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Easter Morning:

We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on Sunday morning at 7am and 10am. CREW is offering a breakfast with food service beginning at 8:30am.

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bell**

### **Order of Service**

Theme Verse: *I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.* John 15:15

**Invocation and Call to Worship** *(please stand)*

P Like sheep we have gone astray. But let us now gather around the mercy of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P He was despised and rejected by men.

C **A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.**

P Surely he has borne our griefs.

C **And carried our sorrows.**

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.**

P What a friend we have in Jesus.

C **All our sins and griefs to bear.**

*(be seated)*

**Opening Hymn**

*“Were You There”*

LSB #456

**Confession and Forgiveness** *(please stand)*

P It was our rebellion that sent Jesus to the cross. It was the blameless Son of God who took our blame to Calvary. Still our gracious God invites us to bring all our sins to him and be forgiven.

C **Hear us now, Jesus, as we confess our sins and receive your forgiveness.**

P When temptation has come our way, our flesh has been weak.

C **We have lived in ways that deny Jesus and declare, “I do not know him.”**

P We have left God’s paths of righteousness and fled from what is right.

C **We have mocked Jesus with our sinful actions and hurtful words.**

P The consequences of our sin cause us to tremble,  
tremble, tremble.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!**  
**Lord, have mercy!**

*(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great,  
Christ's love is greater.)*

P Freely and willingly, Jesus gave his life for you on the  
cross. Graciously and lovingly, Jesus forgives you of all  
your sins. Patiently and constantly, Jesus makes all  
things new through his death on the cross and his  
victory over death through the empty tomb. Friends: In  
the name and by the power of Jesus, you are forgiven!

C **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P Lord Jesus, your sacrifice for us causes us to tremble.  
Though we were not there, in a way, we were. We were  
there at the cross because our sin is what drove you to  
the cross. We were there at the cross because God's  
wayward children needed to be redeemed. You were  
there at the cross because you are our friend. For this,  
Jesus, we love you and love to be called your friends.

C **Amen.**

*(be seated)*

**Choir Anthem**     *"Jesus, Gentle Lamb"*     by Lloyd Larson

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 53:1-6*

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom  
has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 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. 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. Surely he has borne our griefs and

carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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. 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Reading**

*Titus 3:4-7*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading** *(please stand)*

*John 19:17-30*

And he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in

one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A 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. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P This is the Gospel the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

### **Apostles' Creed**

**All I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(be seated)*

### **Sermon Hymn**

*"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"* LSB #450 vs 1, 3, 5, 7

## Sermon

### Presentation of the Offering

#### Prayers *(please stand)*

P Standing at the foot of the cross, we tremble to think of all that our Savior has given for us. Kneeling before our God in prayer, we tremble to think of what a privilege it is to carry everything to God in prayer. Hear us now, O Lord, as we come before you in prayer.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P We bring our hurts and griefs, our brokenness and regrets to the foot of the cross.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P We bring our bodily needs—our need for daily bread, healing of body and soul, and needs of daily life—to the foot of the cross.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P We bring the needs of our neighbors—their burdens and fears, their loneliness and losses—to the foot of the **cross.**

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P We bring the vulnerable and defenseless—sojourners, orphans, the grieving—to the foot of the cross.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P We bring this country that we call home, our leaders, our land and our local communities to the foot of the cross.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P We bring those who do not know you yet, those who are in need of a healing and hopeful word to the foot of the cross.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P We bring it all to the foot of the cross, knowing that  
there it is finished and there we find our friend, Jesus.  
C **Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.**

*(be seated)*

### Service of Darkness

#### First Word

*John 19:14-16a: Luke 23:32-34a*

P It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked, "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified.

P Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals - one on His right, the other on His left. Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

P Father Almighty, the shadow of Your Son's cross falls upon us.

C **We know not how to bear such a load of grief and pain.**

P Grant, O Lord, the comforting shadow of Your mercy.

C **Fill our hearts, our souls, and our minds with your Spirit.**

P Enlighten us

C **that we may see Your love clearly in the death of Your Son, Jesus.**

*"Jesus, I will Ponder Now"*

LSB #440 vs 4-5

**Grant that I Your passion view  
With repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to You  
By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun  
Ev'ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son  
Suffered without measure?**

**If my sins give me alarm  
And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm;  
Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won  
By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son,  
God must have compassion!**

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**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace: You did not seek revenge on those who tormented You. Grant us grace to forgive those who hurt us, to overcome evil with good, to love our enemies for Your sake, and as children of the heavenly Father, seek Your peace, and evermore rejoice in Your love.

**C** **Amen.**

*(The first candle is extinguished.)*

## **Second Word**

*Luke 23:35-43*

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, "He saved others, let Him save Himself if He is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, "If You are the king of the Jews, save Yourself."

There was a written notice above Him, which read: **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him:  
“Aren’t you the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

P Great God,  
C **You are the giver of everything we know and of all that we have.**

P Direct us  
C **that we too may see the goodness of this day, even in the midst of uncertainty and sadness**

P Show us  
C **that not all our shadows need be fearsome; that it is our fears only which bring unwelcome darkness.**

P Guide us  
C **into Your paradise that awaits us and in knowing Your perfect peace.**

P Grant us  
C **a richer awareness of the hope You have sent to us in Your Son, Jesus**

*“Christ, the Life of All the Living”*

LSB #420 vs 2

**Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

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- P Lord Jesus, while You hung on the cross You showed mercy to the dying thief. With that mercy look on us also, we pray, and at our last hour, comfort us with Your promise that we will dwell forever in paradise with You.
- C **Amen.**

*(The second candle is extinguished.)*

### **Third Word**

*John 19:25-27*

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Dear woman here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

- P Lord God, may we learn by Christ's example to love others as we love ourselves.
- C **forgiving the worst we find in others and in ourselves; rejoicing in the best we know of others and of ourselves.**
- P With the power of Your Holy Spirit encourage us to strive
- C **toward greater unity in our own families and toward unity in the family of believers in Christ Jesus.**

*"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"*

LSB #447 vs 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.**

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P Lord Jesus, while You suffered the agony of the cross, You remembered in love Your sorrowing mother. With that same love and pity bless all parents, especially those whose hearts are torn by the loss of loved ones or burdened with worry over their children. In Your mercy, gather all within the peace of Your cross, so that parent and child will love each other as they love You.

C **Amen.**

*(The third candle is extinguished.)*

#### **Fourth Word**

*Matthew 27:45-47*

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” – which means, “My God, my God, why have You forsake Me?” When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

P Lord, we do not want to forsake You and flee,  
C **yet, in our daily confusion we sometimes forget you.**

P Lord, we do not want to condemn You, shouting  
“crucify!”

**C** although we have allowed evil to be done in Your name.

**P** Lord, we would never deny You, saying, “I do not know the man!”

**C** but we have avoided opportunities to proclaim Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin.

**P** Lord, we would never shut You out of our lives, unheeding to Your voice.

**C** when our own clamoring deafens our hearing, will You knock again, Lord, Jesus?

*“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”* LSB #451 vs 2-3

**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.**

**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.**

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**P** Heavenly Father, Your Son cried “Why have You forsaken me?” In time of trial and suffering, do not turn away from us, but give us Your presence and Your power that enable us to endure whatever may be set before us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

*(The fourth candle is extinguished.)*

## **Fifth Word**

*Matthew 10:38-42, John 19:28-29*

(Jesus told his disciples,) “Anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives the one who sent Me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. And if anyone gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

P Lord of life,  
C **we know that You provide all we need to support life.**

P Lord of redemption,  
C **reveal the power of Your redeeming love in our daily living.**

P Lord of love,  
C **help us to remember that Your Son suffered and died as one of us, bearing in His body the penalty for the sin we commit.**

*“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”*

LSB #439 vs 1-3

**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?**

**They crown Thy head with thorns,  
they smite, they scourge Thee;  
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;  
They crucify Thee.**

**Whence come these sorrows,  
whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,  
This I do merit.**

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**P** Lord 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. Strengthen us to carry our burdens and to endure our sufferings by the grace of Your holy example, always giving You thanks for Your love.

**C** **Amen.**

*(The fifth candle is extinguished.)*

### **Sixth Word**

*Hebrews 9:11-12, 15 27-28; John 19:30a*

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

When had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."

P Lord Jesus, in Your death we have life.

C **Stir up our souls that we may pursue with renewed strength the paths You have laid for us.**

P Lead and direct us, O Lord, beyond the darkness into a fuller understanding of Your will,

C **that we need not grope through the darkness to lay our commitment before You and Your Son, Jesus.**

*"Go to Dark Gethsemane"*

LSB #436 vs 1, 3

**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 from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
There, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

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P 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. Complete in us everything 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**

*Luke 23:44-46; Matthew 27:54*

Darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was

torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” When He had said this, He breathed His last.

*(Pause for Meditation)*

When the centurion and those with Him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely He was the Son of God!”

P Open our eyes, Lord,  
C **the shadow of Your Son’s cross encompasses all our world.**

P Stir our souls, Lord.  
C **that we may pursue with renewed strength the paths You have laid for us.**

P Lead us, Lord,  
C **that when our last hour comes, we may be commended into Your loving hands.**

*“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”*      LSB #451 vs 1, 4

**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.**

**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.**

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P 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.**

*(The seventh candle is extinguished.)*

### **Lord's Prayer** *(spoken softly)*

L Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**All 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.**

### **Removal of the Christ Candle**

*(The removal of the Christ Candle symbolizes that our Savior hung in darkness for three God-forsaken hours before he died for the sins of the world.)*

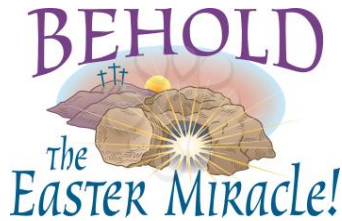
### **Strepitus**

*(A great noise symbolizes the closing of Christ's tomb.)*

*The congregation walks out of the sanctuary and the building silently, contemplating the death of Christ and looking forward to resurrection victory.*

*"Soli Deo Gloria"*

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Join us for the Savior, Servant, Friend special service for  
Easter Sunday, as we celebrate that Jesus is our Redeemer,  
who frees us to live a new life

Easter Worship

Sunday, April 5

7:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

8:30 a.m. breakfast served in the Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

