



*Please remember to place your offering for the work of the Lord
at Emanuel in the offering plate as you leave.*

THE WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Chad E. Hoover
Liturgist: Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer
Lector: Rev. David O. Stecker
Organist: Lynne Eifert
Elder: Benjamin Castens
Ushers: Group 1 (Sam Bender)

Good Friday

Service of the Word ~ April 3, 2026 ~ 1:00 p.m.

The congregation and the Pastors enter in silence.

AS WE GATHER ~ Ever since the beginning of the earthly ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ (and even before!), the old evil foe, Satan, had in mind to defend his stolen realm. He used Herod's lie ("that I may come and worship Him too") to focus his murderous aim at the little town of Bethlehem. The first face-to-face battle in the wilderness employed the tools of temptation, but they failed. All along the way, the enemy inspired officials of both church and state to trip up the Lord of Life. He even manipulated the Lord's own disciples to speak against God's plan—Thomas, Judas, and of course Peter: "Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You," to which Jesus said, "Get behind Me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:22–23). But finally, on this dark day, the adversary was certain he would finally take down the so-called Savior from sin and death by means of sin and death itself. "O sorrow dread! Our God is dead" (LSB 448:2).

But this final, sudden-death matchup would not be just another temptation like any before. Our Good Friday gathering is not a minor nor optional step on our way to the expected "happy ending" of Easter. Here is not written a brief obituary of a sad end but rather the crowning accomplishment of the King of the Jews, the King of Creation, the Lord of Life, who defeats sin and death through death itself. By His death, all who are baptized have died to sin and Christian cemeteries are now but waiting rooms as God has transformed the punishment of death to be, rather, the final remedy for sin as the Christian "who has died has been set free from sin" (Romans 6:7).

Through the darkness, fear, or sadness of this Good Friday, we still celebrate:

The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
We celebrate with one accord;
It is our comfort in distress,
Our heart's sweet joy and happiness. (LSB 634:1)

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ HYMN ↓ *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted* 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.

**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 interpose 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.**

**Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost;
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, His 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.**

PSALM 22 ↑

Pastor: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

People: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

Pastor: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

People: In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

Pastor: To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

People: But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

Pastor: All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

People: “He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

Pastor: Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.

People: On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

Pastor: Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

People: Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

Pastor: they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

People: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

Pastor: my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

People: For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—

Pastor: I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me;

People: they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Pastor: But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

People: Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!

Pastor: Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

People: I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

Pastor: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

People: For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

Pastor: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

People: The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!

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

People: For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

Pastor: All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

People: Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

Pastor: they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY ↑

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING ↓ Isaiah 52:13–53:12 (ESV)

Pastor: The Old Testament Reading for Good Friday is from the 52nd and 53rd chapters of Isaiah.

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

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

¹⁵so 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.

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

²For 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.

³He 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.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

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.

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.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

COLLECT ↓

Pastor: Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

♪ **HYMN** ↓ *Upon the Cross Extended* (vs. 1-4, 7) *LSB 453*
**Upon the cross extended see, world, your Lord suspended,
 Your Savior yields His breath. the Prince of Life from heaven
 Himself hath freely given to shame and blows and bitter death.**

**Come, see these things and ponder,
 Your soul will fill with wonder
 As blood streams from each pore.
 Through grief beyond all knowing
 From His great heart came flowing
 Sighs welling from its deepest core.**

**Who is it, Lord, that bruised You?
 Who has so sore abused You
 And caused You all Your woe?
 We all must make confession
 Of sin and dire transgression
 While You no ways of evil know.**

**I caused Your grief and sighing
 By evils multiplying
 As countless as the sands.
 I caused the woes unnumbered
 With which You soul is cumbered,
 Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.**

**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.**

EPISTLE READING ↓ **Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9 (ESV)**

Pastor: The Epistle is from the 4th and 5th chapters of Hebrews.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶Let 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. ^{5:7}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. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

COLLECT ↓

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, who willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross, that You might 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.

People: Amen.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

♪ **HYMN** *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*
**Jesus, I will ponder now on Your holy passion;
 With Your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
 Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
 Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.**

Pastor: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.



1st READING *Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus* **John 18:1-11**

♪ **HYMN** *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*
**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?**



2nd READING **John 18:12-27**
Jesus before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter

♪ HYMN *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*
 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.



3rd READING *Jesus before Pilate* John 18:28-40

♪ HYMN *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*
 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.



4th READING *Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion* John 19:1-16a

♪ HYMN *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*
 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.



5th READING *The Crucifixion of Jesus* John 19:16b-24

♪ HYMN *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*
 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.



6th READING ↑ *Jesus' Mother and His Death* John 19:25-30

♪ HYMN ↑ *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*
 O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
 That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
 All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying
 While Thou wert dying.



7th READING ↓ *Jesus' Side Is Pierced* John 19:31-37

♪ HYMN ↓ *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*
 And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
 To me the crown of joy at last is given,
 Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,
 I, too, shall praise Thee.

SERMON *Forsaken by God?*

BIDDING PRAYER ↓

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

People: **Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the church, and for all the people of God:

People: **Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You**

according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:

People: Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

People: O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially Donald Trump, our President; the Congress of the United States; Mike Braun, our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, grant health to the sick, and a safe journey to all who travel:

People: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their

necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

People: Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:

People: Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:

People: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

People: O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: ↑ Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

People: 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.

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

People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

The following REPROACHES are the words of the Lord against His people, the Church, to which the congregation replies with a plea for mercy.

Please be seated.

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people. (Micah 6:3-4)

Choir: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

♪ **People: *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy* *LSB 434*
Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, else had despair reigned o'er us;
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people. (Jeremiah 2:6-7)

Choir: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

♪ **People: *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*
Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, else had despair reigned o'er us;
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. What more could I have done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people. (Isaiah 5:2-4)

Choir: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

♪ **People: *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*
Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.**

**All sins Thou borest for us, else had despair reigned o'er us;
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

Please rise.

Pastor: We adore You, O Lord,

People: and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection.

Pastor: For behold, by the wood of Your cross

People: joy has come into all the world.

Pastor: God be merciful to us and bless us,

**People: and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy
upon us.**

Pastor: We adore You, O Lord,

People: and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection.

Pastor: For behold, by the wood of Your cross

People: joy has come into all the world.

Pastor: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

The Pastors and congregation leave in silence.