

St. James Lutheran Church

Good Friday Service

April 7th, 2023 7:00pm

Leaders: Rev. Tonia Fisher and Rev. Kate Stulce

Assistant Minister: Brian Luepke



During this Good Friday service, the crucifix is brought into the church in solemn procession to become the focus of our adoration of the crucified Christ. The words of meditation are the ancient Reproaches. The words of reproach are those of God directed to us, his people, who have crucified the Savior of the world by our sin. Our closing prayer emphasize the triumph and redemption which comes through the cross.

Gathering

Silence is kept as the people gather.

Greeting

Service of the Lenten Candles

Lenten Choral Introit -

Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry, in your death we are re - born; though you
die in all of hist'ry, still you rise with ev' -ry morn, still you rise with ev'ry morn.

Candle Service Devotion for this Good Friday Service

EXTINGUISHING OF FINAL LENTEN CANDLE

Let us pray..... *P: What we contemplate this night is beyond words, beyond understanding.*

**All: May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is inexpressible.
Amen.**

Lenten Choral Introit – Verse for Good Friday

God of all our fear and sor-row, God who lives be-yond our death, hold us
close thru each to- mor- row, love as near as ev'ry breath, love as near as ev'ry breath

Litany of Confession

P: From the busy-ness of our lives we have come here on a day which is different.

C: In the midst of the world which holds the promise of spring and new life, we have come to share a story of betrayal and execution.

P: Come and hear the tale, come and share the tragedy, come and embrace the darkness. God of heaven and earth,

C: You come in close and make us Yours. Equip us by Your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way You set before us in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Out of the depths I cry to you: O Lord God, hear me calling. Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling. Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs. Amen.

Absolution

Gathering Hymn: ELW #335 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

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

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

Turn to the entrance and follow the cross forward.

Meditation 1:

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

P: May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

C: Let your ways be known upon the earth, your saving health among all nations.

P: Let all the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you.

C: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Mediation 2:

P: O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you with the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I planted you as my fairest vine, but you have brought forth bitter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Meditation 3:

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me not drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

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

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

Reflection Hymn: ELW #351 "Oh Sacred Head Now Wounded"



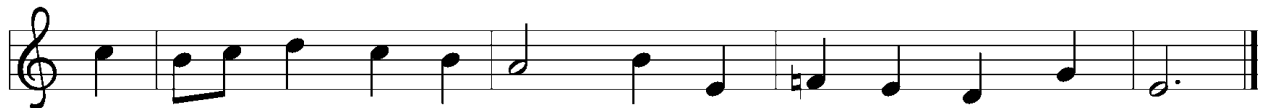
1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Bidding Prayers

*People may pray silently after each bid is made by one Pastor
and then respond "Amen" at the close of each of the pastor's prayer*

The Lord's Prayer

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, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

Liturgy of the Word
The Man from Nazareth

Written by Drew Trafton

Sending Hymn: ELW #353 "Were You There"



- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

We depart in silence.

You are invited to remain and pray as long as you wish.

IT IS FINISHED