

GOOD FRIDAY

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO WAS PIERCED FOR US

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – WEST ALLIS, WI

APRIL 18, 2025

AS WE GATHER

In this Lenten season we have considered all the works of our Lord's hand contrasted with the works of our hands. His hands created us. At His hands, the devil and his demons are defeated and put in their place. His are the careful, gentle yet strong hands of a Great Physician bringing healing not only of sickness and injury but the ultimate healing of raising us from death itself. To this day the hand of the Lord cares for us and feeds us with spiritual nourishment and life. How different are the works of our hands, unable to grasp what we need the most: the help and mercy and grace of God. In the most mysterious way, it was our hands that nailed His hands to the cross, and it was our sin that caused His grief, sorrow, and bitter suffering and death. Yet in those nail-pierced hands was the power to take our sin away and give into our hands forgiveness, life, and salvation. We caused His death. His death gives us life. Without His death, today there can be no Easter resurrection. It all comes down to this: Christ crucified for the life of the world. Without His death there can be no salvation. Let us contemplate His death at our hands that we may receive eternal life from His hands.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

All enter the church in silence.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

C **Amen.**

- PJ The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second and fifty-third chapters.
Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—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.
- PB Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- PJ 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.
- PB 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 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. 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.
- PJ 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.
- PB Yet 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.

PJ 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.

PB 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.

PJ This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for contemplation

P Let us pray.

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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PSALM *Psalm 31*

P In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;

C **let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness
deliver me!**

P Incline your ear to me;

C **rescue me speedily!**

P Be a rock of refuge for me,

C **a strong fortress to save me!**

P For you are my rock and my fortress;

C **and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;**

P You take me out of the net they have hidden for me,

C **for you are my refuge.**

P Into your hand I commit my spirit;

C **You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**

P I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,

C **but I trust in the LORD.**

P I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,

C **because you have seen my affliction; You have known
the distress of my soul,**

P and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;

C **You have set my feet in a broad place.**

P Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

C **my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.**

P For my life is spent with sorrow,

C **and my years with sighing;**

P my strength fails because of my iniquity,

C **and my bones waste away.**

P Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,

C **especially to my neighbors,**

P and an object of dread to my acquaintances;

C **those who see me in the street flee from me.**

P I have been forgotten like one who is dead;

C **I have become like a broken vessel.**

P For I hear the whispering of many—

C **terror on every side!—**

P as they scheme together against me,

C **as they plot to take my life.**

P But I trust in you, O LORD;

C **I say, "You are my God."**

P My times are in your hand;

C **rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my
persecutors!**

P Make your face shine on your servant;

C **save me in your steadfast love!**

P O LORD, let me not be put to shame,

C **for I call upon you;**

P let the wicked be put to shame;

C **let them go silently to Sheol.**

P Let the lying lips be mute,

C **which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and
contempt.**

P Oh, how abundant is your goodness,

C **which you have stored up for those who fear you**

P and worked for those who take refuge in you,

C **in the sight of the children of mankind!**

P In the cover of your presence you hide them

C **from the plots of men;**

P You store them in your shelter

C **from the strife of tongues.**

P Blessed be the LORD,
 C **for He has wondrously shown His steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city.**
 P I had said in my alarm,
 C **“I am cut off from your sight.”**
 P But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy
 C **when I cried to you for help.**
 P Love the LORD, all you His saints!
 C **The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.**
 P Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
 C **all you who wait for the LORD!**

EPISTLE *Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9*

L The Epistle is from Hebrews, the fourth and fifth chapters.

¹⁴Since 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for contemplation

P Let us pray.
 Almighty and everlasting God, you willed that your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so 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.

C **Amen.**

6:00 CHOIR “We Sing the Praise of Him who Died”

+THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST+

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

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So He asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go.” ⁹This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one.” ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?”

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:1)

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.

Jesus before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. ¹³First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how You answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?” ²⁴Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.”

²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:2)

How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus, Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

Jesus before Pilate

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.

²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you.” ³¹Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?” ³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷Then Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” ³⁸Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in Him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:3)

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.

Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. ³They came up to Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck Him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.” ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” ⁷The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God.” ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to Him, “You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?” ¹¹Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin.”

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵They cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We

have no king but Caesar.” ^{16a}So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:4)

My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

^{16b}So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰Many 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. ²¹So 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.’” ²²Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³When 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, ²⁴so 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.

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:5)

What language shall I borrow To Thank 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 Outlive my love for Thee.

Jesus' Mother and His Death

²⁵Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (LSB 450:6)

My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken." ³⁷And again another Scripture says, "They will look on Him whom they have pierced."

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and

Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (LSB 450:7)

Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.

Silence for contemplation

SERMON "The Hands Pierced for Us" Isaiah 52:13-53:12

BIDDING PRAYER

PB 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:

PJ Almighty and everlasting God, since you have revealed your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, 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.

C **Amen.**

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

PJ 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.

C **Amen.**

- PB 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:
- PJ 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.
- C **Amen.**
- PB Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:
- PJ 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, our president; the Congress of the United States; Tony, 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.
- C **Amen.**
- PB Let us pray to our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:
- PJ 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.
- C **Amen.**

- PB 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:
- PJ 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.
- C **Amen.**
- PB 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 professing Christ and His cross:
- PJ 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.
- C **Amen.**
- PB 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:
- PJ 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.
- C **Amen.**
- PB 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:

PJ 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.

C **Amen.**

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

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.**

The Service of Tenebrae

The Tenebrae service calls us to reflect upon the increasing darkness that was evident in all the circumstances that led our Lord to the cross of Calvary. Therefore, as we progress through the service, the candles will be progressively extinguished as will also the lighting of the church. We will hear our Lord's dying words and sing of our Lord's passion for us.

The First Word from the Cross

The Word of **Forgiveness:** Luke 23:33-38

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, 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.”

And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, 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.

Hymn #433

“Glory Be to Jesus”

V 1,4,6

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life blood From His sacred veins!

Abel’s blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

The first candle is extinguished

The Second Word from the Cross

The Word of **Promised Paradise:** Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? 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, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

1:00 Hymn #767 “Jesus, Remember Me” (6pm–Choir only)

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

The second candle is extinguished

The Third Word from the Cross

The Word of **Loving Compassion for His Own:** John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Hymn #425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” vv. 1 & 3

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands,
His feet sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

The third candle is extinguished

The Fourth Word from the Cross

The Word of **Rejection**: Matthew 27:45-46

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lemasabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

Hymn #439 “O Dearest Jesus” vv. 1-4

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 mocking 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.

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.

The fourth candle is extinguished

The Fifth Word from the Cross

The Word of **Life Dried Up**: John 19:28-29

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that 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.

Hymn #451 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” vv. 1, 2 & 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.

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.

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.

The fifth candle is extinguished

The Sixth Word from the Cross

The Word of **Fulfillment**: John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

18

Hymn #452 “O Perfect Life of Love” vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

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.

18 continued

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.

The sixth candle is extinguished

The Seventh Word from the Cross

The Word of **Trust**: Luke 23:46-49

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

The seventh candle is extinguished

Closing Hymn #456 "Were You There?" vv. 1, 2, & 3

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?

Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in a tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in a tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in a tomb?

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The Lord's Prayer (*prayed softly*)

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.

After the closing hymn and Lord's Prayer, there will be a time for silent reflection upon the cross and upon our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died there for us. During this time, worshipers are encouraged to spend some time in personal prayer and confession, pondering the cost of sin and the riches of God's love and grace in Christ. When you leave, please do so in total silence.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lector 6:00
Acolyte
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Dalen Heinzen

Deaconess Carole King

Holy Week continues

Easter Vigil: April 19 at 5:00pm

Easter Sunrise Service: April 20 at 6:30am

Easter Celebration Services: April 20 at 9:00 & 11:00am

Easter Breakfast at 7:30am