



April 3, 2026

Good Friday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Due to the solemn celebration of this week, there is no Prelude, Musical Offering, and Postlude. Only hymns are accompanied. Our worship concludes in darkness to remind us of our sin which God forgives through Jesus' death and resurrection. Today marks the second of the three holy days called the Triduum. Therefore at the end of our worship the Benediction is omitted.

The Congregation gathers in silence.

Procession of the Cross

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

O come, let us worship Him.

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

O come, let us worship Him.

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“The Old Rugged Cross”

♪ On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

~So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

♪ O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. ~So I'll cherish...

♪ In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. ~So I'll cherish...

♪ To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. ~So I'll cherish....

The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn, 186 -Text & Tune: George Bennard 1873-1958; ©1913 George Bennard,
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Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought

forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

A Time of Silence

Psalm 51:1-12

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Prayer

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.

Amen.

Words of Our Lord

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

- ♪ My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me, Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I
That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
- ♪ He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!
- ♪ Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King. Then “Crucify!”
Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
- ♪ Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these Themselves displease And ’gainst Him rise.
- ♪ They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away; A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay. Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes That He His foes From thence might free.
- ♪ In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave. What may I say?
Heav’n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.
- ♪ Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

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 he has 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 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.

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 guilt, 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.

Verse Hymn

“Lamb of God”

♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to be called the Lamb of God.

~O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God!

♪ Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. ~O Lamb...

♪ I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. ~O Lamb....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550 -Text & Tune: Twila Paris b.1958;
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The Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

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.

⁷In 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,

Gradual Hymn

“Were You There”

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

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

♪ Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 456 -Text & Tune: African American Spiritual, 19th cent.;
Setting: C. Winfred Douglas 1867-1944; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Nicene Creed

Offering

The Hymn

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

♪ Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

♪ King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

♪ Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.

♪ At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 621—Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.;
tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.; Text: Public domain*

As a reminder of our sin and the death of Jesus for us, the sanctuary lights are darkened.

Reproaches

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.

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

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.

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.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been 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.

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.

Proclamation of the Word

“Do Our Own Thing?”

Isaiah 53:6

Prayer of the Church

The Crucifixion

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but rather a riot was under way, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this man; see to it yourselves.”

Then all the people responded, “His blood be on us and on our children.”

-The washing of hands in Baptismal font.

Then Pilate wishing to satisfy the crowd, gave sentence that it should be as they demanded. He released to them Barabbas for whom they asked (the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder). He had Jesus flogged and then gave Him over to their will to be crucified. The soldiers mocked Him, stripped Him of the purple robe, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

-A purple robe is thrown to the floor.

The soldiers now had charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out of the city to a place called Skull Hill, in Hebrew, Golgotha. As they led Him away, they laid hold of Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country. On Him they laid the cross that He might bear it after Jesus. Following Him was a great company of people and of women who bewailed and lamented Him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. The days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things with a green tree, what will happen with a dry one?”

-A green branch is held high.

There were two criminals whom they led along to be put to death with Him. When they came to the place called Golgotha, they gave Him wine mingled with gall to drink, but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. Now it was the third hour and there they crucified Him. The two criminals they crucified with Him were one on His right and the other on His left, with Jesus in the middle. The Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.”

-The cup is held high.

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they cast lots to divide His clothes and decide what each should take. They made four parts, one for each soldier. There remained His tunic. This was without seam, woven in one piece from the top to the bottom. They said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide who shall have it.” The Scripture was thus fulfilled which says, “They divided My garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.” These things the soldiers did and sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

-Lots are cast.

Over His head was put the charge against Him. Pilate wrote the notice to be put on the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. This title was read by many of the Jews, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, “You should not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but ‘This man said, I am the King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

-A wooden sign is held high.

People stood by, watching. Those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself. If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him to one another saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross that we may see and believe. He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He wants Him, for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him and offering Him wine, and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.”

Seven Words from the Cross

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

-First Candle is extinguished.

One of the criminals who hung there with Him also mocked Him by saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save Yourself and us.” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are getting what we deserve for

what we have done; but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

-Second Candle is extinguished.

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 and the disciple whom He loved standing near, 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 into his own home.

-Third Candle is extinguished.

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? Which means: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” When some of them that were standing there heard it, they said, “He is calling for Elijah.”

-Fourth Candle is extinguished.

After this, Jesus knew that all things were accomplished. Fulfilling the Scripture He said, “I thirst.” There was a jar of wine standing there. One of them ran immediately to get a sponge. He filled it with wine, put it on a reed, held it up to His mouth, and gave it to Him to drink. Though others said, “Wait and see if Elijah will come and save Him.”

-Fifth Candle is extinguished.

When Jesus had received the wine, He cried out with a loud voice, “It is finished!”

-Sixth Candle is extinguished.

Acolyte then puts down candle lighter and walks to the Christ candle and stands.

Then He said, “Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.”

-The Christ candle is carried out of the sanctuary symbolizing Jesus’ death.

Having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing Him saw how He died, he said, “Truly, this man was the Son of God.” All the people who had gathered to see the sight, when they saw what had happened, turned away beating their breasts. Those who had known Him stood at a distance, as also the women who had followed Him from Galilee. Among them was Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

-The black cloth is removed from the cross.

It was the day of Preparation before the Sabbath, and this was Passover Sabbath. Therefore, so that the bodies should not remain on the crosses during the festival, the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they did not break His legs, but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. One who saw it is our witness, and his testimony is true. He knows the truth that you also may believe. These things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled: Not one of His bones shall be broken. And again: “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.

By this time evening had come. A respected member of the council, Joseph of Arimathea, was one who was looking for the kingdom of God, a good and righteous man who had not consented to their purpose and deed. He was a disciple of Jesus secretly, for he feared the Jews. Now he took courage

and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was astonished that He could be dead already. He called for the centurion and asked him whether Jesus was already dead. When he was assured by the centurion that it was so, Pilate granted Joseph the corpse and commanded that it be given over to him.

-The black cloth is removed from the Sanctuary.

Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus. Nicodemus came also, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds in weight. It was he who had first come to Jesus by night. They then took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

The white cloth is placed on the altar.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb, where no one had ever been buried. Joseph laid the body in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock, and rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and went away.

The Strepitus

The slamming of the book symbolizes the sealing of Jesus' tomb.

Lord's Prayer *The Lord's Prayer is spoken softly.*

The Benediction is omitted.

We leave in silence, pondering Christ's death to save us from eternal death!

Our worship continues on Easter Sunday.