



# GOOD FRIDAY

*All gather in silence.*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and 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.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 52:13--53:12**

<sup>13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

<sup>14</sup>Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals—

<sup>15</sup>so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

<sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup>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,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
 yet he did not open his mouth;  
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
 and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
 so he did not open his mouth.  
<sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
 Who could have imagined his future?  
 For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
 stricken for the transgression of my people.  
<sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked  
 and his tomb with the rich,  
 although he had done no violence,  
 and there was no deceit in his mouth.  
<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.  
 When you make his life an offering for sin,  
 he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
 through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.  
<sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
 he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
 The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
 and he shall bear their iniquities.  
<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
 because he poured out himself to death,  
 and was numbered with the transgressors;  
 yet he bore the sin of many,  
 and made intercession for the transgressors.

L. The word of the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 22:1-18

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for-<sup>l</sup>saken me?  
 Why so far from saving me, so far from the words<sup>l</sup> of my groaning?  
<sup>2</sup>**My God, I cry out by day, but you<sup>l</sup> do not answer;  
 by night, but I<sup>l</sup> find no rest.**  
<sup>3</sup>Yet you are the<sup>l</sup> Holy One,  
 enthroned on the prais-<sup>l</sup>es of Israel.  
<sup>4</sup>**Our ancestors put their<sup>l</sup> trust in you,  
 they trusted, and you<sup>l</sup> rescued them.**  
<sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and<sup>l</sup> were delivered;  
 they trusted in you and were not<sup>l</sup> put to shame.  
<sup>6</sup>**But as for me, I am a worm<sup>l</sup> and not human,  
 scorned by all and despised<sup>l</sup> by the people.**  
<sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh<sup>l</sup> me to scorn;  
 they curl their lips; they<sup>l</sup> shake their heads.  
<sup>8</sup>**"Trust in the LORD; let the<sup>l</sup> LORD deliver;  
 let God rescue him if God so de-<sup>l</sup>lights in him."**  
<sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth<sup>l</sup> from the womb,

and kept me safe on my <sup>l</sup> mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup>**I have been entrusted to you ever since <sup>l</sup> I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my <sup>l</sup> mother's womb.**

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trou- <sup>l</sup> ble is near,  
and there is no <sup>l</sup> one to help.

<sup>12</sup>**Many young bulls en- <sup>l</sup> circle me;  
strong bulls of Ba- <sup>l</sup> shan surround me.**

<sup>13</sup>They open wide their <sup>l</sup> jaws at me,  
like a slashing and <sup>l</sup> roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>**I am poured out like water; all my bones are <sup>l</sup> out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is <sup>l</sup> melting wax.**

<sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof <sup>l</sup> of my  
mouth; and you have laid me in the <sup>l</sup> dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers <sup>l</sup> circles round me;  
they pierce my hands <sup>l</sup> and my feet.**

<sup>17</sup>I can count <sup>l</sup> all my bones  
while they stare at <sup>l</sup> me and gloat.

<sup>18</sup>**They divide my gar- <sup>l</sup> ments among them;  
for my clothing, <sup>l</sup> they cast lots.**

## Second Reading

Hebrews 10:16-25

[After the Holy Spirit says,]

<sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,"

<sup>17</sup>he also adds,

"I will remember their sins  
and their lawless deeds no more."

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the  
sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for  
us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great  
priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full  
assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and  
our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our  
hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us  
consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting  
to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all  
the more as you see the Day approaching.

L. The word of the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

John 18:1--19:42

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 18th and 19th chapters.

C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus... went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley,  
where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.  
Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place;

for Jesus often met there with his disciples.  
So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers  
and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees,  
went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him,  
came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"  
They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth."  
Jesus said to them, "I am he."  
Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.  
When he said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.  
Again he asked them, "Whom do you seek?"  
And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."  
Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he;  
so, if you seek me, let these men go."  
This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken,  
"I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."

Then Simon Peter, having a sword,  
drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear.  
The slave's name was Malchus.  
Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath;  
shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"

So the band of soldiers and their captain  
and the officers of the Judean authorities seized Jesus and bound him.  
First they led him to Annas;  
for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.  
It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the religious authorities  
that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.  
Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple.  
As this disciple was known to the high priest,  
he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus,  
while Peter stood outside at the door.  
So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest,  
went out and spoke to the woman who guarded the gate,  
and brought Peter in.

The woman who guarded the gate said to Peter,  
"Are not you also one of this man's disciples?"  
He said, "I am not."  
Now 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.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.  
Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world;  
I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple,  
where all Jewish people come together;

I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me?  
Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them;  
they know what I said."

When he had said this,  
one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,  
"Is that how you answer the high priest?"  
Jesus answered him,  
"If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong;  
but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"  
Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself.  
They said to him, "Are not you also one of his disciples?"  
He denied it and said, "I am not."  
One of the servants of the high priest,  
a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,  
"Did I not see you in the garden with him?"  
Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters.  
It was early.  
They themselves did not enter the headquarters,  
so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.  
So Pilate went out to them and said,  
"What accusation do you bring against this man?"  
They answered him,  
"If this man were not an evildoer,  
we would not have handed him over."  
Pilate said to them,  
"Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."  
The religious authorities said to him,  
"It is not lawful for us to put any man to death."  
This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken  
to show by what death he was to die.

Pilate entered the headquarters again and called Jesus, and said to him,  
"Are you the King of the Judeans?"  
Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord,  
or did others say it to you about me?"  
Pilate answered, "Am I a Judean?  
Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me;  
what have you done?"  
Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world;  
if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight,  
that I might not be handed over to the religious authorities;  
but my kingship is not from the world."  
Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?"  
Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king.  
For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world,  
to bear witness to the truth.

Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice."  
Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After Pilate had said this,  
he went to the religious authorities again, and told them,  
"I find no crime in him.  
But you have a custom  
that I should release one man for you at the Passover;  
will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?"  
They cried out again, "**Not this man, but Barabbas!**"  
Now Barabbas was a bandit.  
Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him.  
And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head,  
and arrayed him in a purple robe;  
they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"  
and struck him with their hands.

Pilate went out again, and said to them,  
"See, I am bringing him out to you,  
that you may know that I find no crime in him."  
So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.  
Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"  
When 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 crime in him."  
The religious authorities answered him,  
"We have a law, and by that law he ought to die,  
because he has made himself the Son of God."  
When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid;  
he entered the headquarters again and said to Jesus,  
"Where are you from?"  
But Jesus gave no answer.  
Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me?  
Do you not know that I have power to release you,  
and power to crucify you?"  
Jesus answered him,  
"You would have no power over me  
unless it had been given you from above;  
therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin."

Upon this Pilate sought to release him,  
but the religious authorities cried out,  
"If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend;  
everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar."  
When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out  
and sat down on the judgment seat  
at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab' · ba · tha.  
Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover;  
it was about the sixth hour.

He said to the religious authorities, "Behold your King!"  
They 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.**"  
They handed him over to them to be crucified.

*All may stand.*

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross,  
to the place called the place of a skull,  
which is called in Hebrew, Gol' go-tha.  
There they crucified him,  
and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross;  
it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Judeans."  
Many of the Judeans read this title,  
for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;  
and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.  
The Jewish chief priests then said to Pilate,  
"Do not write, 'The King of the Judeans,'  
but, 'This man said, I am King of the Judeans.'"  
Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."  
When the soldiers had crucified Jesus  
they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier;  
also his tunic.  
But the tunic was without seam, woven 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,  
"They parted my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."  
So the soldiers did this.

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 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 to his own home.

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished,  
said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst."  
A bowl full of vinegar stood there;  
so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop  
and held it to his mouth.  
When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished";  
and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



Since it was the day of Preparation,  
in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross  
on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day),  
the religious authorities asked Pilate that their legs might be broken,  
and that they might be taken away.  
So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first,  
and of the other who had been crucified with him;  
but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,  
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.  
He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true,  
and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe.  
For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled,  
"Not a bone of him shall be broken."  
And again another scripture says,  
"They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus,  
but secretly, for fear of the religious authorities,  
asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus,  
and Pilate gave him leave.  
So he came and took away his body.

Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night,  
came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes,  
about a hundred pounds' weight.  
They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices,  
as is the burial custom of the Jews.  
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 laid.  
So because of the Jewish day of Preparation,  
as the tomb was close at hand,  
they laid Jesus there.

P. The Gospel of the Lord  
C. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*The Harder Fact*

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

## **Bidding Prayer**

A: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for our bishop/s, for our pastor/s, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for God's creation.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray for those in need.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

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

**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**

**Sending Hymn**

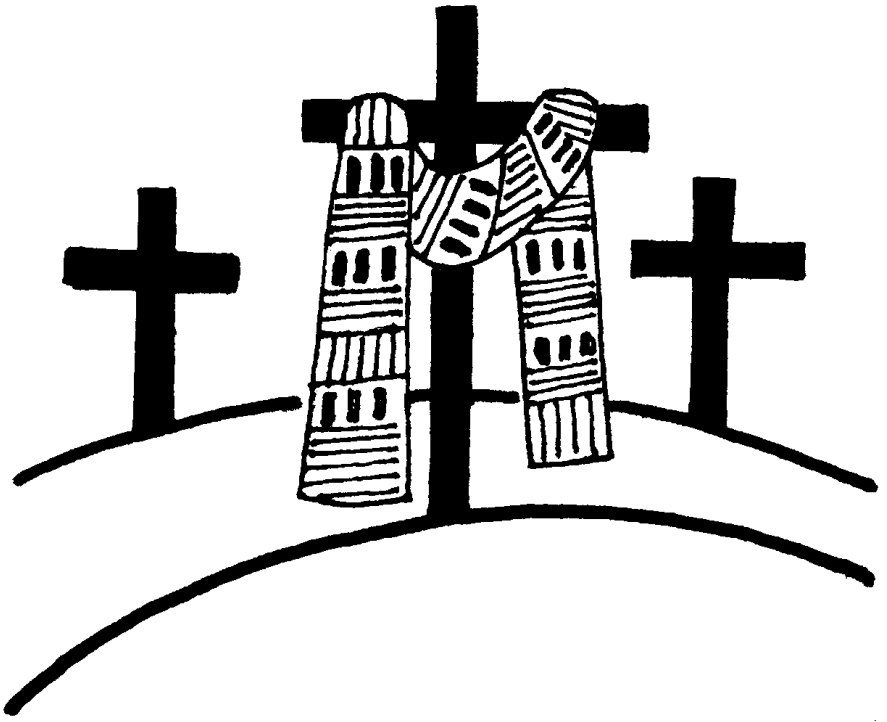
*"When I survey the wondrous cross"*

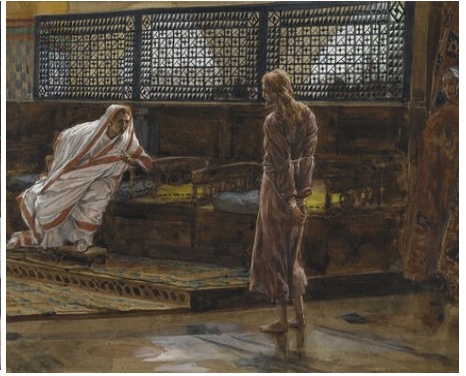
**ELW #803**

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

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

***ALL DEPART IN SILENCE***









**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**  
**Easter Day, March 31, 2024**

9:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast  
10:30 AM – Service of Holy Communion

Servers for Good Friday

Lectors: Rachel Zarnke

Worship Assistant: Donna Doughty

**ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator  
Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music  
Penny Davis, Nursery Director