



**April 10, 2020**

**Good Friday Worship**

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church - Speedway, Indiana**

Fellow St. Andrew's Members and Friends,

Today is Good Friday - the day Jesus was crucified. The day he gave his life for us. As we gather as a community virtually, we have two options for you to worship alongside our partner in ministry John Knox Presbyterian. Choose the option that is easiest for you!

1. If you are on Facebook, the easiest thing to do is to look up **John Knox Presbyterian Church** and "like" or "follow" the church's Facebook page. That way, you will see the event listed on today at 12:00pm, and then can watch it through Facebook at that time.
2. The other option is to go to John Knox's website. There is an embedded link there within an article. Here is the link to the website:  
<http://johnknox.org/article/speedway-community-good-friday-online-service/>

If you are not able to attend, do not fret! Once the event has ended, the recorded service will be posted on their website. You will be able to find it using the same link as above. Let me know if you have any questions!

Ready for some interaction with God's word right now? We have you covered there as well! Below you will find links to Stations of the Cross filmed by Pastor Eric C. Shafer. Follow along with the 16 videos and thought-provoking questions throughout today and tomorrow.

Tomorrow morning you will receive a worship service for the Vigil of Easter. Have a candle ready if you wish to light one as you take time to meditate on God's word.

On Easter Sunday you will receive worship as we have been doing for nearly a month now (that seems so crazy!). We will also have a celebration on Zoom where we can all gather in community. Please see the email sent on Wednesday that has the details. As always, reach out if you have any questions!

Stay safe and wash your hands! God's peace and love,  
Kelli Steurer

To view all videos in succession use the playlist:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTkVLkhEII\\_Smkq7x\\_7riG-orRfIAGwtP](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTkVLkhEII_Smkq7x_7riG-orRfIAGwtP)

## **Stations of the Cross Introduction**

Link: <https://youtu.be/Pa5QKoP-KQk>

- What do you want to learn from these stations?
- How have you suffered in your life? What are some of the difficulties that you are facing now?
- How do you respond to suffering? When you are under pressure what happens to your mind and body?
- As you go through each Station, think about the emotions you feel and how these emotions relate to your own pain and suffering or challenges you have faced.

Pray: God of power and mercy, in life you sent your son that we might be cleansed of sin and live with you forever. Bless us as we gather to reflect on His suffering and death that we may learn from His example the way we should go. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 1: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane**

Link: <https://youtu.be/pSfJJUaDoS8>

- Matthew 26:36-41
- Have you been betrayed? How did that make you feel? How do you think Jesus felt knowing he would be betrayed? How does Jesus react to this knowledge?
- What is this passage saying to you?

Pray: Lord, grant us your strength and wisdom, that we may seek to follow your will in all things. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 2: Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested.**

Link: <https://youtu.be/TL1cLEGiUIM>

- Mark 14:43-46
- Why do you think Jesus reacted the way He did when arrested?
- What does this say about how you should react when in difficult situations?

Pray: Lord, grant us the courage of our convictions, that our lives may faithfully reflect good news you bring. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 3: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin.**

Link: [https://youtu.be/zNF6\\_j5sfqE](https://youtu.be/zNF6_j5sfqE)

- Luke 22:66-71
- Why do you think Jesus said, "You say that I am"?
- Why do the Sanhedrin need to find another way to get Jesus crucified?
- Are you really responding as God wants you?

Pray: Lord, grant us your sense of righteousness, that we may never cease to work to bring about the justice of the kingdom that you promised. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 4: Jesus is denied by Peter.**

**Link:** <https://youtu.be/bJIQ2rw7IHg>

- Matthew 26:69-75
- How do you think Peter felt?

Pray: Lord, grant us the gift of honesty, that we may not fear to speak the truth even when it is difficult.

## **Stations of the Cross 5: Jesus is judged by Pontius Pilate.**

**Link:** <https://youtu.be/l481zpPWJ34>

- Mark 15:1-5
- Have you ever given in to pressure? How did you react? How do you think God wants you to react?
- Imagine yourself as Jesus standing before his accusers. What do you feel as you stand there? What do the faces of these people look like? What do their eyes say about them?

Pray: Lord, grant us discernment, that we may see as you see, not as the world sees. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 6: Jesus is beaten and crowned with thorns.**

**Link:** <https://youtu.be/sLX0DFkDJgs>

- John 19:1-3
- Pastor Eric said that this passage could show that Jesus is the king of the Jews. How does this short passage do that?

Pray: Lord, grant us patience in times of suffering, that we may offer our lives as a sacrifice of praise. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 7: Jesus bears the cross.**

**Link:** <https://youtu.be/KprGIEOA5so>

- John 19:6, 15-17
- Where in your life is your cross?
- Have you embraced it – or are you fighting it along the way?

Pray: Lord, grant us strength of purpose that we may faithfully bear our crosses each day. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 8: Jesus is helped by Simon, the Cyrenian, to carry the cross.**

**Link:** <https://youtu.be/ldgGRX0EBPM>

- Mark 15:21
- How do the soldiers represent us?
- Are you humble enough to allow another to help you? Can you ask for someone's help without letting pride get in the way? Perhaps we too can examine places where we are neglecting our neighbor instead of alleviating his or her burden.

Pray: Lord, grant us willing spirits, that we may be your instruments on Earth. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 9: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.**

Link: <https://youtu.be/dWeSAdTGlxg>

- Luke 23:27-31
- Should the ones sending Jesus to His death be fearful? Where do we see ourselves in the story of Jesus' crucifixion?

Pray: Lord, grant us gentle spirits, that we may comfort those who mourn. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 10: Jesus is crucified.**

Link: <https://youtu.be/FwtmuZpqZVg>

- Luke 23:33-34
- Often it seems we are defeated with no way to regain our footing. If you focus on what is truly good and holy, you participate in what was won on the cross. What unimportant matters in your life can you let go?
- Are you willing to risk anything close to this, to become totally vulnerable for the sake of another? Often when "stripped" our true selves will show. Can you begin showing this true self to others without fear?

Pray: Lord, grant us merciful hearts, that we may bring reconciliation and forgiveness to all. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 11: Jesus promises His kingdom to the good thief.**

Link: [https://youtu.be/wg\\_dvxtY4r0](https://youtu.be/wg_dvxtY4r0)

- Luke 23:39-43
- Was this thief worthy of the forgiveness given? What does it mean to be worthy of God's mercy and forgiveness?
- When have you needed forgiveness?

Pray: Lord, grant us perseverance, that we may never stop seeking you. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 12: Jesus speaks to his mother and John.**

Link: <https://youtu.be/vHtCzNIFoFI>

- John 19:25-27
- Pastor Eric says that some scholars believe this passage ties Jesus's Earthly ministry to the ministry of the church. How does this passage tie Jesus's Earthly ministry to the ministry of the church? Who does Mary represent and who does John represent?

Pray: Lord, grant us constancy, that we may be willing to stand by those in need. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 13: Jesus dies on the cross.**

Link: <https://youtu.be/wjg3LnOVYQY>

- Luke 23:44-46
- A time of sorrow and mourning. In your own life here you may feel alone, even dead to the world. Try to relate these to Jesus' sense of aloneness and remember you were created for eternity, not just our short time on earth.
- Why do you think Luke has Jesus's life ending in a prayer?
- Why is the curtain tearing in two so significant?

Pray: Lord, grant us trust in you to know that, when our time on Earth is ended, our spirits will come to you without delay. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross 14: Jesus is placed in the tomb.**

Link: <https://youtu.be/txNEIJZ8J9k>

- Matthew 27:57-60
- During a difficult period of trustful waiting, we need a great degree of patience. Where can you practice more patience in your life to better prepare you for future trials that will loom much larger?
- Why are Joseph's actions so significant?

Pray: Lord, grant us compassion, that we may always provide for those in need. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross Conclusion**

Link: <https://youtu.be/oxSlyrICxfc>

- How is God speaking to you today?
- When you fall, it can be embarrassing. Jesus fell multiple times as He bore the cross. When you fall, are you still able to rely upon God? Where may pride be an obstacle? How can the cross that seems to be weighing you down actually lift you up spiritually?
- How much risk do you take in helping others? Are you willing to get your hands dirty?
- Have you closed yourself off from someone?
- How often do you overthink or weigh things out instead of just acting toward someone else's need?
- Are you relying on God to pick you up when needed? Are there places in your life where you are overly relying on yourself - or others?
- Often just when you think we have accepted and dealt with one form of suffering, another comes along. This time we have even less control and feel external factors are determining our destiny. Perhaps this is a deeper invitation to *trust God*. Where in your life has this occurred or is still occurring?
- Pick a specific time in your life when you were disappointed, ill, or hurt by someone you love. Now imagine that Jesus is with you and you're sharing this deeply personal story with him. What does Jesus do? How does he respond to your pain?
- We, like many people before us, live in tumultuous times. Think of how we as a society respond to adversity. Where do we succeed and where do we fail?
- How do the Stations of the Cross help us to imitate Christ more fully?
- The individual Stations are profiles in character. Pick one Station that demonstrates something about Jesus' character. Take a few moments to imagine how you can incorporate that quality of Jesus in your day-to-day life.

Pray: Lord, Jesus Christ, your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites Earth and Heaven and reconciles all people to you.

May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in Heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.