

GOOD FRIDAY
April 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993
Web Site: memluth.org
E-mail: office@memluth.org
717-532-4614

**Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshipping and serving in Jesus' name**

Reverend Godfred Effisah
717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)
pastor@memluth.org

As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Memorial's Good Friday worship service. As we left last evening's Maundy Thursday worship in silence, tonight's worship begins in silence. Life and death stand side by side as we enter Good Friday. In our reflection on the Stations of the Cross, we are invited to journey with Jesus on his way of sorrows, so that we may meditate on how Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is tried and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. While we depart silently in prayer and wait through the quiet of Saturday, we anticipate the Easter news soon to echo from the empty tomb.

A: Assisting Min., Susan Lyons; P: Pastor Godfred; C: Congregation Acolyte: Jonathan Perdeu

The ministers enter in silence.

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING PRAYER

Before the Altar

P: In the name of the Father, and + of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

A: Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25)

P: Christ has humbled himself and became obedient to death:

C: Even death on a cross.

P: Mercifully assist us:

C: O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us follow the way of the cross.

C: In the name of our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST STATION

Jesus is Condemned to Death

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

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

A: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." After flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

(Matthew 27:1-2, 22, 24, 26b)

P: By a perversion of justice:

C: 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. 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. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. (Isaiah 53:8-10a)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son was rejected and condemned to die by your own people. Grant that we may never reject his word of truth and salvation, but follow him all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

**Now the cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
The great cross of victory.**

Please be seated.

THE SECOND STATION

Jesus Carries His Cross

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

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

A: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and

striking him on the face. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. (John 19:1-2, 16b-17)

P: I gave my back to those who struck me:

C: And my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me. (Isaiah 50:6-9a)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, your Son laid aside all power in order to take up the cross and show us the depths of your love for us. Increase our willingness to bear our own cross, for love of him and for love of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

**Weakened, prodded, cursed and fallen,
His whole body bruised and swollen,
Jesus tripped and lay in pain.**

Please be seated.

THE THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls the First Time

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

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

A: Justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us; we wait for light, and lo! there is darkness; and for brightness, but we walk in gloom. We stumble at noon as in the twilight, among the vigorous as though we were dead. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him. (Isaiah 59:9, 10b, 15b - 16)

P: Three times I appealed to the Lord about this:

C: That it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:8-10)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Lord God, your Son chose to be weak before the powers of this world, and you worked your power through him. In our time of weakness, help us to turn to you, that your power may work in us also; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Jesus met his grieving Mother,
She who made the Lord our Brother;
Now the sword her heart has pierced.**

Please be seated.

THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

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

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

A: When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:26-27)

P: Then Simeon blessed them:

C: And said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed -- and a sword will pierce your own soul too." (Luke 2:34-35)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Father of mercies, a sword of grief pierced deep into the heart of Mary as she witnessed her Son's passion. As we share in her sorrow by walking the way of sorrows, may we also share in the joy that is to come, the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Simon stopped in hesitation,
Not foreseeing his proud station,
Called to bear the cross of Christ.**

Please be seated.

THE FIFTH STATION

Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

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

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

A: As the soldiers led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23:26)

P: A disciple is not above the teacher.

C: **Nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.** (Matthew 10:24-25z, 37-38; 11:29-30)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Loving Father, you have called us into fellowship under the cross of your Son that we might bear your love to all in the world. Help us to be as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need, that all may be called out of the darkness into the light of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**Brave but trembling came the woman,
None but she would flaunt the Roman,
Moved by love beyond her fear.**

Please be seated.

THE SIXTH STATION

Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face

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

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

A: Jesus' journey is at times brutal. He has entered into the terrible experiences of rejection and injustice. He has been whipped and beaten. His face shows the signs of his solidarity with all who have ever suffered injustice and vile, abusive treatment. He encounters a compassionate, loving disciple who wipes the vulgar spit and mocking blood from his face. On her veil, she discovers the image of his face - his gift to her. And, for us to contemplate forever. The veil I behold is a

true icon of his gift of himself. This is for me. In wonder and awe, I behold his face now wiped clean and see the depth of his suffering in solidarity with all flesh.

P: Then the righteous will answer him:

C: “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ (Matthew 25:37-40)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. O God, your Son’s passion shows us that loving others holds great risks that make us tremble and reluctant to act. Strengthen us in our faith and our resolve to take those risks and to see your Son in our needy brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

**Prostrate on the dust he crumbled,
Flogged in body, he resembled
All our people poor and scorned.**

Please be seated.

THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls a Second Time

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

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

A: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 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. 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. (Isaiah 53:4-6)

P: Blessed are the poor in spirit,:

C: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:3, 5,8,11-12)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, as we walk the way of sorrows, it pains us to know that it is our fallenness in sin that crushes Christ under his cross. Yet by his suffering, we are raised up and made whole. Strengthen us in our baptismal vows and forgive us always for the sins that make us fall, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**May our sympathy for Jesus
Turn to those who here now need us,
May we see Christ bruised in them.**

Please be seated.

THE EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

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

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

A: A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." (Luke 23:27-28)

P: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: The Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are but mortal flesh, and the span of our lives is very brief. Help us to see our frailty and affliction as a sharing in Christ's frailty and affliction, and through them, the path to life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Jesus fell again in weakness,
Stumbling as we do, to lead us
Through our sorrow and our pain.**

Please be seated.

THE NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls a Third Time

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

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

A: I cry to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. I lie down among lions that greedily devour human prey; their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongues sharp swords. They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my path, but they have fallen into it themselves. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. (Psalm 57:2, 4, 6-7a)

P: My God, my God:

C: Why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like baked clay, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. (Psalm 22:1-2, 14-15)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, there are times when life's burdens weight down upon us, and our faith is so drained that we feel forsaken and abandoned by you. Yet you never forsake those who are your own. As you raised your Son from death to life, from despair to joy, so be present in our lives and raise us to hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Stripped and jeered by his own nation,
Jesus stood in desolation,
Giving all he had to give.**

Please be seated.

THE TENTH STATION

Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes

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

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

A: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." (John 19:23-24a)

P: All of you must clothe yourselves with humility:

C: In your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. (1 Peter 5:5b-7, 10)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Lord God, your Son endured humiliations and indignities beyond compare, yet without complaint. Keep us humble in our work and daily lives with a willingness to put others before ourselves as Jesus put us before himself; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Pierced the hands that blessed and cured us;
Pierced the feet that walked to free us,
Walked the hill of Calvary.**

Please be seated.

THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

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

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

A: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:32-34a)

P: When we were dead in trespasses:

C: God made us alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

(Colossians 2:13-14)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, despite his wounds, Jesus showed his love throughout his passion: for his mother, for the women of Jerusalem, for the good thief, even for those who nailed him to the cross.

Bind us ever to that love, and help us to look beyond ourselves and our sufferings in order to share that love with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Life eternal, death defiant,
Bowed his head, - the world was silent,
Through his death came life anew.**

Please be seated.

THE TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

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

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

A: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said, "Father, into your hand I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. (Luke 23:44-46)

Pause for reflection.

P: When you make his life an offering for sin.

C: He shall see his offering, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. 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. 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. (Isaiah 53:10b-12)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Who would have believed it, O God? Who would have thought that the Savior would die? Yet in the world's darkest hour, you snatched him out of the jaws of death, crushing sin and death underfoot. Keep us ever close to his cross and death, now and at the hour of our death; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Stunned and stricken, Mary, Mother,
In your arms was placed our Brother,
“Full of grace” now filled with grief.**

Please be seated.

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

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

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

A: When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth. (Mark 15:42-43, 45-46a)

P: I will pour out a spirit of compassion:

C: And supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.
(Zechariah 12:10)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord and Consoler of all who mourn, comfort us in all our partings. Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love. Help us always to put our faith in you and entrust our loved ones into your infinite care; through Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

**Jesus, Lord, your gift accepted,
In three days you resurrected;
You did first what we shall do.**

Please be seated.

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

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

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

A: Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred

pounds. He and Joseph took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19:39-42)

P: Thus says the Lord God:

C: “I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord. (Ezekiel 37:12-13a, 14)

Please stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. God of hope, you have promised that if we are buried with Christ in the waters of Baptism, then we too will rise with him to new life. Make us ever mindful of our baptism and remove all stain of sin from us through repentance, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BIDDING PRAYER

Before the Altar

The gathered shall be seated. The Assisting Minister leads the invitations to pray (bids). Silence for each prayer follows each bid. The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence. The gathered shall respond with “Amen” at the end of each of the presiding minister’s portion of the prayer.

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

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.

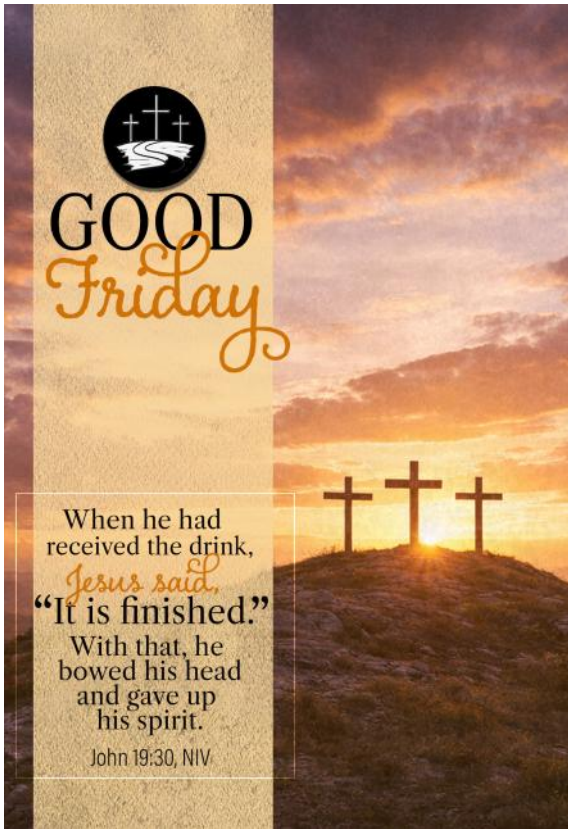
HYMN “Were You There”

ELW 353

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

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

The ministers leave in silence. Worshipers may remain for prayer and meditation.



Join us for our Easter Vigil and Resurrection of Our Lord Services

Saturday, April 4 Easter Vigil Service - 7:30 pm

**Sunday, April 5 Sunrise Quiet Service - 7:00 am
Easter Breakfast - 8:00 am
Sunday School - 9:00 am
Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am**



**Mary Kay Dagenhart
Doug & Pat Maun
Jeanne Naugle
Dorothy Railing**

**Trina Ruth
Wayne Widney
All Caregivers**



**Pastor
Pastor Godfred Effisah**

**Organist & Pianist
Nancy Fogelsanger**

**Senior Choir / Bell Choir
Director
Kathy Kerr**

**Parish Coordinator
Amy Piper**



Check out our church website using this QR Code!

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004243. New Revised Standard Version Bible. Copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.