

Good Friday
April 3, 2026 – 7pm

Accompanist

Dave Vagts

ELW = the red hymn book under your seat. Hymns are located in the back of the book.

† indicates stand as able

Gathering

Please gather in silence to allow for personal reflection.

Consider reflecting on what the cross means to you and what difference it makes to know that Jesus died for us.

† Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Passover Lamb, we give thanks for the unswerving love you showed in your death and burial. Forgive and strengthen us so that we can rise with you, restored by your grace. **Amen.**

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the

number of people who eat of it... This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

“This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-18

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.”

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Do not let me be put to shame, O Lord, for I call on you; let the wicked be put to shame; let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.

Let the lying lips be stilled that speak insolently against the righteous with pride and contempt.

† Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

† Gospel: John 19:30b-42

*The Holy Gospel according to John, the nineteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.*

Then Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then 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. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.” After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They 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 he 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.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

† Hymn of the Day: Sing, My Tongue

ELW 356

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;
tell the triumph far and wide;
tell aloud the wondrous story
of the cross, the Crucified;
tell how Christ, the world's redeemer,
vanquished death the day he died.

God in mercy saw us fallen,
sunk in shame and misery,
felled to death in Eden's garden,
where in pride we claimed the tree;
then another tree was chosen,
which the world from death would free.

Tell how, when at length the fullness
of th'appointed time was come,
Christ, the Word, was born of woman,
left for us the heav'nly home,
blazed the path of true obedience,
shone as light amidst the gloom.

Thirty years among us dwelling,
Jesus went from Nazareth,
destined, dedicated, willing,

did his work, and met his death;
like a lamb he humbly yielded
on the cross his dying breath.

Bend your boughs, O tree of glory,
your relaxing sinews bend;
for a while the ancient rigor
that your birth bestowed, suspend;
and the Lord of heav'nly beauty
gently on your arms extend.

Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
be for all the noblest tree;
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit your equal be;
symbol of the world's redemption,
for your burden makes us free.

Unto God be praise and glory;
to the Father and the Son,
to th'eternal Spirit honor
now and evermore be done;
praise and glory in the highest,
while the timeless ages run. Amen.

Bidding Prayer

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

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for Yehiel and Amy our bishops, for Beth our pastor,
for Maggie, Janice, Sandi, and all servants of the church, and
for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for our siblings who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,

you are the creator of a magnificent universe.

Where creation groans in pain, bring new life, so that everything that flies or swims or hops or crawls, along with every rock and plant, may flourish under your care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,

you are the champion of the poor and oppressed.

In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, especially our president, governor, judges, and officers, that they may wield power in accordance with your commands, 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.

Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

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

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Procession of the Cross

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

Oh, come, let us worship him.

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

Oh, come, let us worship him.

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

Oh, come, let us worship him.

Solemn Reproaches

The Solemn Reproaches are a tradition of Good Friday worship stretching back more than 1000 years. Each reproach begins with Christ expressing a specific act of love or sacrifice he has made for humanity, followed by a question or lament about why he has

been repaid with betrayal or rejection.

The texts often include references to Old Testament events, drawing parallels between God's actions for the Israelites and Christ's actions for humanity. The Solemn Reproaches serve as a powerful reminder of the depth of Christ's love and the gravity of human sinfulness, aiming to inspire reflection, repentance, and gratitude among the faithful.

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom,
and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert,
feeding you with manna on the way;
I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the
bread of heaven,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire,
but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;
I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter
fruit;

I made you branches of the vine and never left your side,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I poured out saving water from the rock,
but you gave me vinegar to drink;

I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my
blood,

but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;

I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a
reed;

I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land,
but you opened my side with a spear;

I washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I lifted you up to the heights,
but you lifted me high on a cross;

I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I grafted you into my people Israel,
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters,
but I was hungry and you gave me no food,
thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

Hymn: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (At the Cross)

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my sov'reign die?

Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

Refrain:

At the cross, at the cross,

where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away;
it was there by faith I received my sight,
and now I am happy all the day.

Was it for sins that I had done
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
and love beyond degree! *Refrain*

Well might the sun in darkness hide
and shut its glories in
when God, the mighty maker, died
for his own creatures' sin. *Refrain*

Thus might I hide my blushing face
while his dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt my eyes to tears. *Refrain*

But tears of grief cannot repay
the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away:
it's all that I can do. *Refrain*

Dismissal:

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All depart in silence. Worshipers may take time to kneel or stand and pray at the cross before they depart.