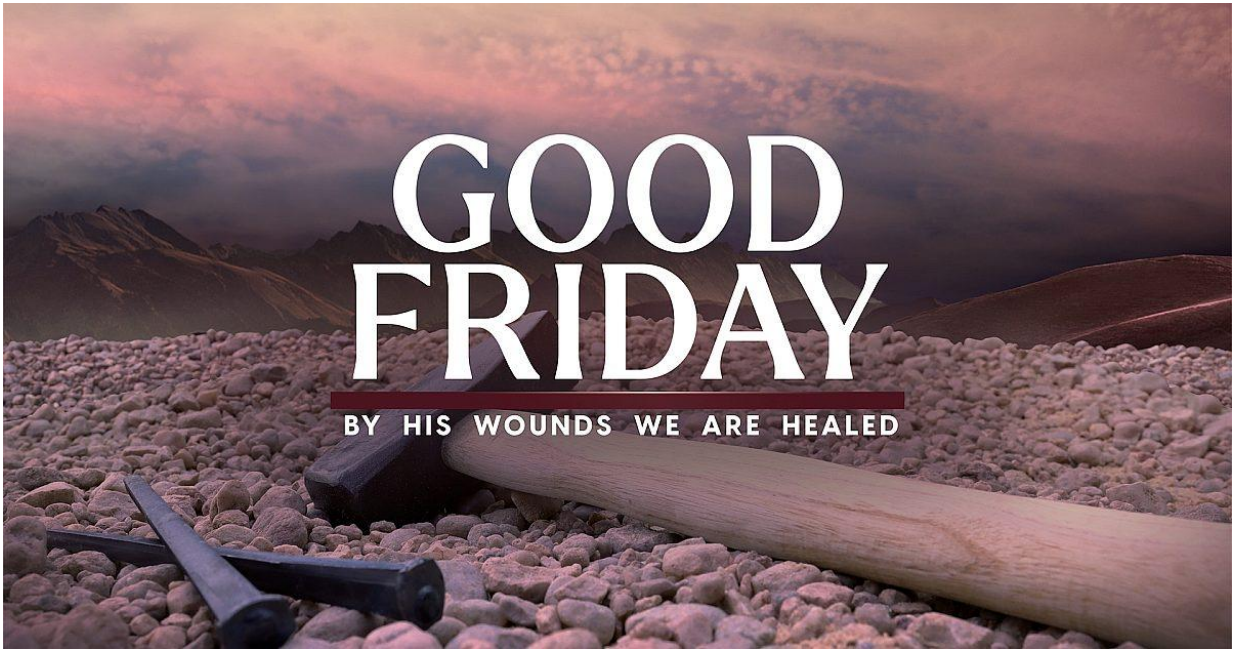
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

...a community growing DEEPER *in faith, and* WIDER *in love.*

(Ephesians 3:16-17)



A TENEBRAE SERVICE OF SHADOWS AND STONES
Friday, April 3 – Noon and 7 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME AT BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!

The Significance of Stones

At the beginning of worship, each person will receive a stone. You are encouraged to use this stone during the worship by holding it in your hand, placing your worries on it and feeling its weight. At the conclusion of worship, you will be invited forward to the altar and you will be asked to leave the stone at the foot of the cross, symbolizing letting go of the weight of your worries, marking an encounter with God, and honoring Jesus in his time spent in the grave until Easter morning.

PRELUDE
WELCOME
INVOCATION

GOOD FRIDAY CALL TO WORSHIP

All you who pass this way
Look and see, the shadow of sin
All you who pass this way
Look and see the weight of the world
All you who pass this way
Look and see, the suffering of our Savior.
All you who pass this way
Look and see, the sorrow of Jesus Christ.
Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

HYMN **O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED (ELW 351)**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

GOOD FRIDAY READING **ISAIAH 52:13-53:12**

13 See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very
high.14 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— 15 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. 53:1Who has believed
what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 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. [3] 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. [4] Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. [5] 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. [6] 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. [7] 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. [8] 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. [9] 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. [10] 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. [11] 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. [12] 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *WHAT JESUS SAID WHEN IT MATTERED MOST* **PASTOR DAVID YOUNG**

1) How does knowing Jesus *chose* this suffering change how you understand His love? What burdens or wounds are you still carrying that Isaiah says He has already borne?
2) Jesus speaks words of forgiveness. Who is God calling you to forgive? Jesus says, “I thirst.” Where are you spiritually thirsty right now? Jesus prays, “Into your hands I commit my spirit.” What would it look like for you to fully trust God with your life?
3) If these are the words that mattered most to Jesus, how should they shape what matters most to us? Which of Jesus’ last words is God inviting you to live out this week?

SERVICE OF SHADOWS

Shadow of Condemnation

READING ***LUKE 23:32-34***

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. [33]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. [[[34]Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

PRAYER

Forgiving Christ, **when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come along side us in the darkness, and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.**

(Silence)

SONG **THE OLD RUGGED CROSS**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suff'ring 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 someday for a crown

Shadow of Separation

READING ***LUKE 23:35-43***

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."
39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

PRAYER

Reconciling Christ, **we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, people who are not whole. You reached out to the thief, you welcomed him to God's side. Come alongside us in the darkness, and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken.**

(Silence)

SONG **THE OLD RUGGED CROSS**

Oh, 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 the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.

Shadow of Sorrow

READING ***JOHN 19:25-27***

And that is what the soldiers did.
Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

PRAYER:

Loving Jesus, **we carry the weight of the people we love, concern for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness, and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.**

(Silence)

SONG **THE OLD RUGGED CROSS**

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 the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.

Shadow of Despair

READING ***MATTHEW 27:45-26***

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. [46]And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, **you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God's presence. Come alongside us in the darkness, and help us call out for God.**

(Silence)

SONG **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?

Shadow of Suffering

READING ***JOHN 19:28-30***

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." [29]A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. [30]When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

PRAYER

Suffering Savior, **in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness, and walk with us through all our suffering.**

(Silence)

SONG **WERE YOU THERE**

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Shadow of Death

READING ***LUKE 23:44-49***

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, [45]while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. [46]Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. [47]When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." [48]And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. [49]But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, **even in death, you are there. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we come to our own end, you have been there, too. Come alongside us in the darkness, and carry us through death to life.**

(Silence)

SONG **WERE YOU THERE**

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?

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"WONDERFUL GRACE"
Music/lyrics John Pantry
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We depart in silence.

FOLLOWING EASTER SERVICE
JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR
EASTER BRUNCH

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