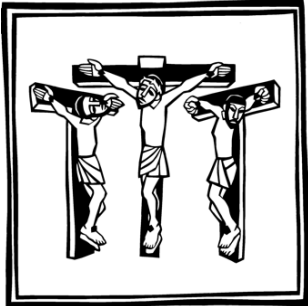


# Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church

April 3, 2026  
Good Friday



*Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial 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. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.*

**Welcome:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

**Worship:** *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

*Passing of the Peace:* It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

*Physical Distancing:* It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

**Children Welcome:** Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kid's bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

## *Gathering*

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GATHERING HYMN

*Wait for the Lord*

ELW 262

*Sing three times*



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*The liturgy begins in silence after all have been seated. The ministers process into the worship space in silence.*

## ***STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR***

After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in the life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly; prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrested, mock trials, the crowd shouting “crucify,” a painful beating, the walk to Golgotha, execution. By 3:00 PM Jesus was dead.

**Christ died for us. A good man died in order to lead us to God.**

*You are invited, as you feel comfortable, to come forward and help strip the altar. As you come, receive an item from the ministers, carry it through the sacristy doors to the right, and place it on the table.*

As Jesus prayed...

**We remove the sacramental vessels from this place.**

As Jesus was arrested...

**We remove the altar book from this place.**

As Jesus was mocked...

**We remove the missal stand from this place.**

As Jesus was accused...

**We remove the candles from this place.**

As Jesus was tried...

**We remove the fair linen from the alter in this place.**

As Jesus was whipped...

**We removed the alter plants from this place.**

As Jesus was crucified...

**We remove the paraments from this place.**

Jesus fell silent...

*Turn off the lights on the cross.*

*As the congregation sings, bring the cross down from the wall and place it on the alter.*

# HYMN

## The Old Rugged Cross

1. On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, The em - blem  
2. O that old rug-ged cross, so des - pised by the world, Has a won - drous  
3. In that old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine, A won - -  
4. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true; Its shame and

of suff'r - ing and shame; And I love that old cross where the dear - est  
a - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glo - ry  
drous beau - ty I see, For 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered  
re - proach glad - ly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far

and best For a world of lost sin - ners was slain. So I'll  
a - bove To bear it to dark Cal - va - - ry.  
and died, To par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.  
a - way, Where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, Till my tro - phies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rug-ged cross, And ex - change it some day for a crown.

*The assembly stands as they are able.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray, siblings in Christ, for the 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 Wayne and Yehiel, our bishops, for Adam our pastor, ministers, musicians, 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 our siblings who share faith in Jesus Christ. (*Silent prayer*)

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Child. 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 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 Beloved Child. 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. 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.

**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, 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.**

### ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

**THE FIRST WORD: LUKE 23:32-34**

**Ray Silhan III**

<sup>32</sup>Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

**MEDITATION**

*The first candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN**

**Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes**

**LBW 112**  
*Verses 1 - 3*

1 Je - sus, in thy dy - ing woes, e - ven while thy life - blood flows,  
2 Sav - ior, for our par - don sue when our sins thy pangs re - new,  
3 Oh, may we, who mer - cy need, be like thee in heart and deed,

crav - ing par - don for thy foes:  
for we know not what we do: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
when with wrong our spir - its bleed:

**THE SECOND WORD: LUKE 23:39-43**

**Linda Glover**

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus,

remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

## ***MEDITATION***

*The second candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN**

***Jesus, Remember Me***

***Sing three times***

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

## ***THE THIRD WORD: JOHN 19:25b-27***      ***Pastor Joyce Gulliford***

<sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "**Woman, here is your son.**" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

## ***MEDITATION***

*The third candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN**

***There in God's Garden***

***ELW 342***  
***Verses 1 & 4***



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

***THE FOURTH WORD: MARK 15:33-34***

***Marilynn Sells***

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

***MEDITATION***

*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

# HYMN

# Jesus, In Thy Dying Woes

# Verses 4-6



1 Je - sus, in thy dy - ing woes, e - ven while thy life - blood flows,  
2 Sav - ior, for our par - don sue when our sins thy pangs re - new,  
3 Oh, may we, who mer - cy need, be like thee in heart and deed,



crav - ing par - don for thy foes:  
for we know not what we do: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
when with wrong our spir - its bleed:

## Part II

4 Jesus, pitying the sighs  
of the thief, who near thee dies,  
promising him paradise:  
hear us, holy Jesus.

5 May we in our guilt and shame  
still thy love and mercy claim,  
calling humbly on thy name:  
hear us, holy Jesus.

6 May our hearts to thee incline,  
looking from our cross to thine.  
Cheer our souls with hope divine:  
hear us, holy Jesus.

## THE FIFTH WORD: JOHN 19:28-29

*Ron Matta*

<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "**I am thirsty.**" <sup>29</sup>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.

## MEDITATION

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN**

**Ah, Holy Jesus**

**ELW 349**  
**Verse 1, 2, & 5**



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

**THE SIXTH WORD: LUKE 23:44-46**

**Kathy Kratochvil**

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**" Having said this, he breathed his last.

**MEDITATION**

*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN**

***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded***

**ELW 351**  
*Verses 1, 3 & 4*



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

***THE SEVENTH WORD: JOHN 19:30***

***Pastor Adam***

***MEDITATION***

***THE CLOSING OF THE BOOK***

<sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "**It is finished.**" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*The curtain of the temple is torn in two as Jesus dies. The slamming of the book upon the altar represents the departure of God's presence and the death of God's Word.*

# HYMN

# Were You There?

# Verses 1 - 4



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*The seventh candle is extinguished.*

*The Congregation departs in silence. You may come forward to reverence the cross. Worshippers may remain for prayers and meditation.*

We thank you for your ministry here today:

**Presiding Minister**

Pr. Adam Dowd

**Assisting Minister**

Marilynn Sells

**Pianist**

Pastor Joyce Gulliford

**Meditations**

Linda Glover, Pastor Joyce Gulliford, Kathy Kratochvil, Ron Matta,

Marilynn Sells, Raymond Silhan III

**Video**

Sherry Sejnost

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland