

# Good Friday 2026

We are called by God to follow Christ in  
love and service to all.



We encourage children to feel welcome in church during worship. And we recognize that kids need to move and fidget while we share this time together. Tables and coloring pages are available to kids in both the front of the worship space and in the Commons. Parents, please feel free to let your kids move around as needed.

## *All gather in silence*

*(please stand)*

### **Gathering Hymn**

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

ELW#351

### **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

*(be seated)*

### **Procession of the Cross**

*The cross is carried in procession and placed in front of the assembly.*

*As the cross starts to process:*

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

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*As the cross comes to the middle of the nave:*

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

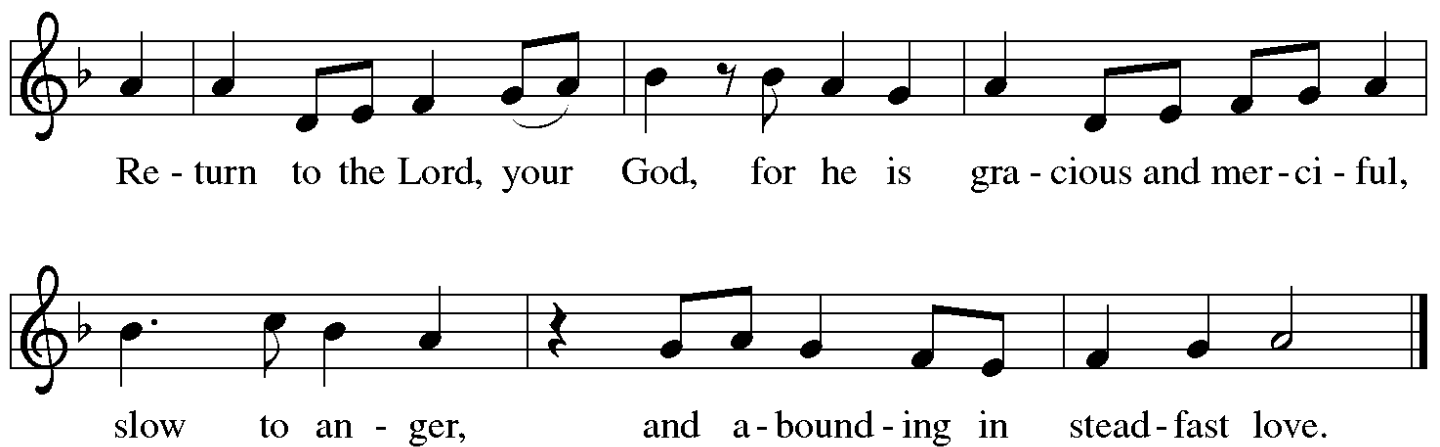
**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*As the cross is placed in position:*

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

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

## Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The musical notation is written on two staves in a single system. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The music is in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and melodic, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

## Gospel Reading

John 18:1—19:42

## Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

ELW#334

## **Bidding Prayer**

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, 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 all servants of the church, and for the vocations of 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 sisters and brothers 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.**

**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.**

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

**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.**

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Choir**

“When You Prayed Beneath the Trees” by Christopher Idle

When you prayed beneath the trees,  
it was for me, O Lord;  
when you cried upon your knees,  
how could it be, O Lord?  
When in blood and sweat and tears,  
you dismissed your final fears,  
when you faced the soldiers' spears  
you stood for me, O Lord.

When their triumph looked complete,  
it was for me, O Lord;  
when it seemed like your defeat,  
they could not see, O Lord!  
When you faced the mob alone-  
you were silent as a stone,  
and a tree became your throne;  
you came for me, O Lord.

When you stumbled up the road,  
you walked for me, O Lord;  
when you took your deadly load,  
that heavy tree, O Lord;  
when they lifted you on high,  
and they nailed you up to die,  
and when darkness filled the sky,  
it was for me, O Lord.

When you spoke with kingly power,  
it was for me, O Lord;  
in that dread and destined hour,  
you make me free, O Lord;  
earth and heaven heard you shout,  
death and hell were put to rout,  
for the grave could not hold out;  
you are for me, O Lord.

## **Adoration of the Crucified Christ**

Let us adore the Christ.

**We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

May God be merciful and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.

**We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

*brief silence*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Sending Hymn**

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

ELW#349

***Depart in silence***