GOOD FRIDAY

April 18, 2025



AS WE GATHER

On Good Friday, we celebrate the day that Jesus died. This is a death He died willingly. As we remember His suffering and death, we know that is not the end of the story. And because of Jesus' death and resurrection, it also isn't the end of the story for those who die in the Christian faith.

Come to Calvary's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall; Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died. (*LSB* 435:1)

₩ PREPARATION **₩**

PRELUDE

"Ave Verum Corpus"

Mozart



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

- P Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
- For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Silence for reflection and personal confession.

- P Jesus, our High Priest,
- We humbly confess to You that we are weak. In our weakness, we sin against You and one another with our words and actions, and in our thoughts and the lack thereof. Our sins cut us off from You. We know that the wages of sin is death, and we keep on sinning. We deserve death. Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Change our hearts and lives and conform them to Yours, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. Jesus freely gives us what we do not deserve: forgiveness, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you. • And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 52:13–53:12* (The Suffering Servant)

See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,

and shall be very high.

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—

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.
Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
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.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces

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.

he was despised, and we held him of no account.

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.

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.

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. 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. 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.

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

PSALM Psalm 31; antiphon: v. 1

- In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in Your righteousness deliver me! Incline Your ear to me; rescue me speedily!
- Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!
- For You are my rock and my fortress; and for Your name's sake You lead me and guide me; You take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for You are my refuge.
- Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
- I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the LORD.
- I will rejoice and be glad in Your steadfast love, because You have seen my affliction; You have known the distress of my soul, and You have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a broad place.
- Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.
- For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.
- Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors, and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.
- I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.
- For I hear the whispering of many— terror on every side!— 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; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!
- Make Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your steadfast love!
- O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon You; let the wicked be put to shame; let them go silently to Sheol.
- Let the lying lips be mute, which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and contempt.
- Oh, how abundant is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You and worked for those who take refuge in You, in the sight of the children of mankind!
- In the cover of Your presence You hide them from the plots of men; You store them in Your shelter from the strife of tongues.
- Blessed be the LORD, for He has wondrously shown His steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city.
- I had said in my alarm, "I am cut off from Your sight." But You heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to You for help.
- R Love the LORD, all you His saints!
- The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.
- Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!
- In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in Your righteousness deliver me!

FPISTLF

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

(Jesus, our High Priest, gives us mercy and grace.)

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,





CREED Apostles' Creed

 \mathbf{C}

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life

everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Almighty God, You revealed Your glory to the world through Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. Root us firmly in Your Word. Nourish us with Your Supper. Lead us to bear witness to the world of Your love through our good deeds. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Heavenly Father, on this night we remember the sacrifice of Your Son for the sins of the world. We grieve His suffering and death. We feel shame for our sins. We are thankful we are forgiven. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- P Gracious Father, we grieve the deaths of those we love. Provide comfort and healing to all who mourn losses in this life. Give consolation and strength to all who experience suffering and sorrow in this world. Lord, in Your mercy.
- C hear our prayer.
- P Lord God, on this night, we remember how Your Son's death was orchestrated by the religious and governing authorities. Lead and guide

those who serve Your church on earth, [especially . . .], that they may faithfully serve You and Your church. Lead and guide those who lead our nation, [especially . . .], that they may serve our nation, state, and community for Your good. Lord, in Your mercy,

- hear our prayer.
- P Almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We pray that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance, that they may have the same love and be of one heart and mind with us and Your church. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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 To Know God's Love, Behold the Cross

D. Silvey, soprano & J. Robinson, bass

- To know God's love, behold the cross! Who else would suffer such a loss? What gift is there of greater price Than this astounding sacrifice?! Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
- Who else could possibly atone For all the world, but You alone? None but a perfect Lamb could bear The curse that dooms all to despair! Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
- 3 Like that amazed centurion, We too exclaim: "You are God's Son!" Who else in heav'n or earth but You Would do what only God could do? Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
- 4 Unless You were to rise again, That Friday would have been the end; The creatures whom You came to save Would join You in Your death and grave. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
- Each time we meet, You come to us Across the gulf of time and space: Your children here—You ev'rywhere, You in Your Word—we in our prayer: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!

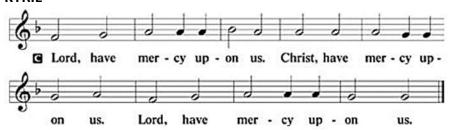
TENEBRAE SEQUENCE

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

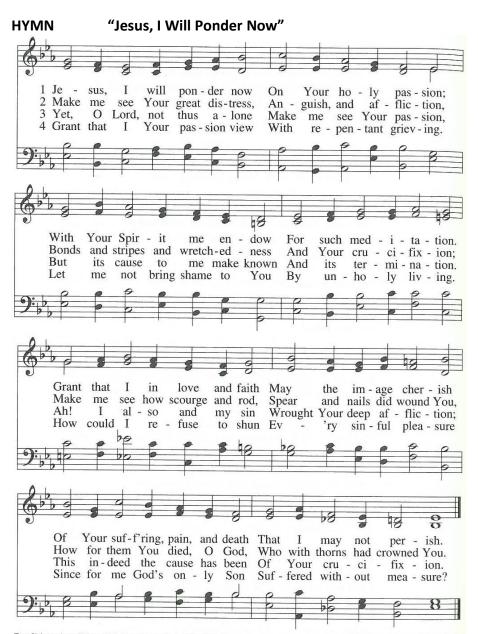
PASSION READING John 18:1–11

(Judas and a band of soldiers confront Jesus.)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'



The first candle is extinguished.



Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615; setting: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

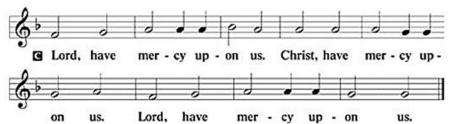
JESU KREUZ, LEIDEN UND PEIN

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Is that how you answer the high priest?' Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?' Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.' One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?' Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.



The second candle is extinguished.



PASSION READING John 18:28–40

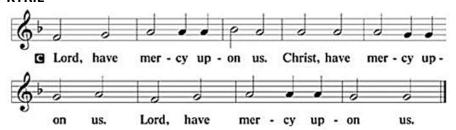
(Jesus is taken to Caiaphas, then Pilate.)

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus

answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.



The third candle is extinguished.



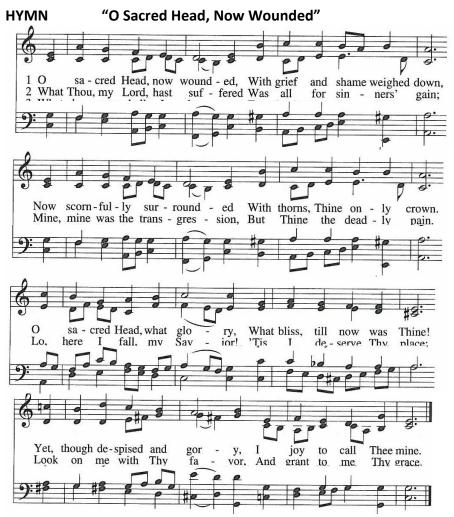
PASSION READING John 19:1–16a (Jesus is flogged and mocked.) Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate

said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.





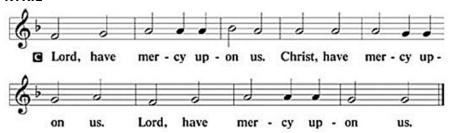
Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; setting: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN (Isorhythmic) 76 76 D

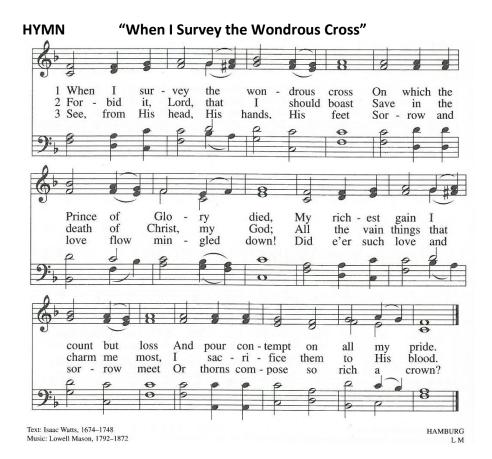
PASSION READING John 19:16b–24 (Jesus is crucified.)

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. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews." ' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' 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.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'



The fifth candle is extinguished.



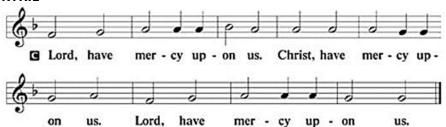
PASSION READING John 19:25–30 (Jesus is dead.)

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. 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.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' 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. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



The sixth candle is extinguished.



PASSION READING John 19:31–42 (Jesus is buried.)

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 final candle is carried out of the chancel.

STREPITUS

A loud sound is heard, signifying the closing of the tomb.

The candle is returned.

Observe silence as the lights become brighter, anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday.

