



Friday, April 18, 2025 ~ Good Friday

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. This day reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. Today's liturgy leads us to the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening, where we celebrate the resurrection.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 262)

A Let us pray. 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. **C Amen**

READING: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

^{53:1} Who 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 affliction.
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;
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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

I John 18:1-11 – THE ARREST OF JESUS

Stay with Me (Taize Community) (sung 2x)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

II John 18:12-27 – JESUS IS TRIED AND DENIED

Stay with Me (Taize Community) (sung 2x)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

III John 18:28-40 – JESUS BEFORE PILATE

Stay with Me (Taize Community) (sung 2x)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

IV John 19:1-7 – JESUS IS MOCKED

Stay with Me (Taize Community) (sung 2x)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

V John 19:8-16a – JESUS IS JUDGED

Stay with Me (Taize Community) (sung 2x)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

VI John 19:16b-22 – JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Were You There (v. 1)

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?

VII John 19:23-25a – JESUS' CLOTHES DIVIDED

Were You There (v. 2)

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?*

VIII John 19:25b-30 – THE DEATH OF JESUS

Were You There? (v. 3)

*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?*

IX John 19:31-42 – THE BURIAL OF JESUS

Were You There? (v. 4)

*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?*

MEDITATION – TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Behold the Wood ~ Dan Schutte (v. 1-3)*

Refrain

Be - hold, be - hold the wood of the cross, on which is
hung our sal - va-tion. O come, let us a - dore.

Verses

1. Un - less a grain of wheat shall fall up - on the ground and die, it
2. And when my hour of glo - ry comes as all was meant to be, z
3. For there can be no great - er love — shown up - on this land than
4. My Fa - ther, if it be your plan, this cup might pass me by; yet
5. For sure - ly he has borne our tears, is wound - ed by our sin, and
6. My bod - y now is torn with pain, my friends have left and gone. O

to Refrain

1. shall re - main but a sin - gle grain and not give life.
2. you shall see me lift - ed up up - on a tree.
3. in the one who came to die that we might live.
4. let it hap - pen as you will if I must die.
5. yet he o - pens not his mouth that we might live.
6. lov - ing Fa - ther, take my life in - to your hands.

BIDDING PRAYER

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

Silent prayer.

A 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. **C Amen.**

Silent prayer.

A Let us pray for Paul and Elizabeth our bishops, and all servants of St. Stephen's, and for all the people of God.

Silent Prayer

A 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.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for all Christians preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

A 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. **C Amen.**

A Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

A 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. **C Amen.**

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

Silent prayer.

A 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. **C Amen.**

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

Silent prayer.

A 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.

C Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

A 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. **C Amen.**

A Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

A 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. **C Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

A 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.
C Amen.

A Let us pray for those people in need.

Silent prayer.

A 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. **C Amen.**

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

C 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.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

The assembly stands and turns to face the cross in the back of the sanctuary. The cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The assembly faces the cross as it is brought forward. The following is sung three times, at the beginning, midpoint, and end of the procession. The presider sings the first part, all sing the response where indicated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

VENERATION OF THE CROSS

During this time, worshipers may come to the cross to make a sign of reverence. Reverencing the cross may include pausing before the cross.

SOLEMN REPROACHES

(PRAYED DURING THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS)

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

A 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.

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

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

C By your holy cross you have re- | deemed the world.

At the end of the Veneration

A Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung our salvation

C O, come let us adore.

SENDING HYMN: *Jesus, Remember Me* (ELW 616) (sung 3x)

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

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'Jesus, Remember Me'. It consists of two staves, a treble staff and a bass staff, both in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

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

The second system of musical notation for the hymn 'Jesus, Remember Me'. It consists of two staves, a treble staff and a bass staff, both in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

All depart in silence

SERVING AT WORSHIP

ASST. MINISTER: 7:30 PM
LECTORS: Beth Feeney
USHERS: Multiple
ALTAR GUILD: Kevin Barcavage
Lauren & Bill Artus

JOIN US FOR EASTER



Easter Sunday -- April 20 ~ 9:00 AM

Christ is risen indeed! With signs of the resurrection everywhere,
join us in Easter joy as our shouts and songs of Alleluia ring
and reign with the Good News!

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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