

Good Friday April 3, 2026

Welcome

Tonight, we continue a journey that began last Sunday as we remembered Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the last week of his life. He arrived to celebrate The Passover but unlike past years, this time things would be different. Before the week was out Jesus would have been arrested, tried as a criminal and sentenced to a brutal death on a cross. Though we remember these events over the course of a week, this journey didn't begin with Palm Sunday, it didn't even begin with Jesus' birth, it started the moment sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden. Tonight, we begin with a meal but we end with silence as we again repent of our sins and embrace salvation. Christ died for us and it is this death that frees us not for one moment but for all time.

Prelude

Opening Song

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Worship Team

Invocation & Prayer

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray. Most merciful God, as we gather this evening- to come around your table, to receive your true presence, and to remember your passion and death, I pray that you will bless us. We are not worthy of your Son’s sacrifice on the cross but you have given it to us anyway, and so we pray, make us worthy. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and help us fix our eyes upon you because you are the author and perfecter of our faith.

People: Amen

Confession & Absolution

Pastor: By means of His Word and Supper, we gather together today to receive our Savior’s mercy and respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and deed, we are spiritually bankrupt and unworthy of the grace we receive. Yet at the invitation of our loving Redeemer, we come to His Table and take our place with Him. Acknowledging our sin, let us find refuge in our God of grace and say, “God be merciful to me, a sinner.”

In silent prayer, we reflect on God’s Word and confess our sins to the Lord.

Pastor: Together, let us pray:

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life, that we may enjoy the fullness of Your presence at the feast You have prepared for all who trust in You. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again for you so that you may be redeemed and restored. You have been invited to the eternal banquet, the heavenly feast, where our Savior and Host delights us with the richest of fare, the forgiveness of sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and your pastor, declare to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Apostle's Creed

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.

First Reading

Matthew 26:17-30 ESV

Reading Reflection

Pastor Eli

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

This evening as we gather to remember The Last Supper as Jesus shared it with his disciples, we invite you to take a few moments for personal reflection. Focus on this gift which Christ freely offers to us, the gift of Himself in the bread and the wine. As you prepare your hearts, take a moment to pray that He would reveal Himself to you as you receive from Him.

When you are prepared, we invite you to proceed forward on your own, you will not be dismissed, just make your way forward to the front pew and proceed to the altar rail when there is space.

Communion Songs

“O Come To The Altar”

Worship Team

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB 628



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633-1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

John 18:1-14 ESV

Reading Reflection

Pastor Eli

Stripping of the Altar

On the night of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion he was not only condemned but was stripped of his clothes and beaten nearly to death. As his dignity and finally his life was ripped away, we strip our altar of the signs of the life of the church. As we sing our next hymn, we watch as the items that aid our focus on the object of our worship are removed to remind us that for 3 days he was removed from the world as he lay in the tomb.

1. Flowers are placed on the altar as more than mere decoration. They are a reminder of the life that God brought forth during the time of Creation. We remove the flowers now as a reminder that life is exactly what Jesus was surrendering as he went to the cross.

2. The Communion elements contain the true body and blood of Jesus; their removal is a stark reminder that the presence of Christ was absent during his time of death in the tomb.

3. The Altar Book is filled with God's Word in prayers, songs, and liturgies to guide us to the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. He came to His own but His own did not receive Him. They wanted to silence God's Word. We remove the Altar Book to remember the silence when Jesus endured death and burial for us.

4. The Paraments decorative liturgical cloths used to remind us of the season of the church year through the changing of their colors. The color of Lent is purple and as the parament is removed, it's color reminds us that Jesus was first clothed in a purple robe to be mocked and then was stripped of that robe to be put to death

5. The Candles bring light dispelling darkness, the candles flanking the altar are removed reminding us of the darkness of the world without Christ's presence.

Songs for Reflection

“In Christ Alone”

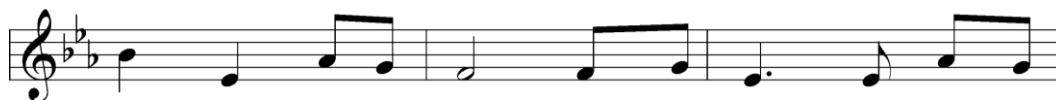
Worship Team

“When You Awoke That Thursday Morning”

LSB 445



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, Long - ing
3 What was there that You could give them That would
4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, All one



teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty
with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones
nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -
bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;
on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:
live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?
vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at
Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last
“Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me
One with You and one an - oth - er In a



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's
pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their
as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance
u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.
teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood.”
broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.

Reading Reflection

Pastor Eli

Responsive Psalm (Psalm 31)

Pastor: 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!

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: 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!

Pastor: 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.

People: 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.

Pastor: Love the Lord, all you His saints! The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

People: Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!

Fourth Reading

Matthew 27:11-26 NIV

Reading Reflection

Pastor Eli

Lord's Prayer

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.

Fifth Reading

Matthew 27:27-44 NIV

Reading Reflection

Pastor Eli

Preparation for Prayer

Jesus took our sins to the cross. Through his death we are brought near to the Father and the door is opened for Him to hear our prayers and respond from His throne in heaven. John writes these words in his first letter- And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us- 1 John 5:14. As we move through our journey on the last night of Jesus' life, we take time to come before the altar and offer our prayers. In your bulletin you will find a post-it note. We invite you to take a moment to write a prayer on that note. When you are ready, bring your note forward to the altar, place it in the basket, and then light a candle which symbolizes your prayer rising to heaven.

Prayer Songs

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

LSB 436



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901 Text and tune: Public domain

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Worship Team

The Death of Christ

Matthew 27:45-66 ESV

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

The Light Departs

“Were You There”

LSB 456



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
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 laid Him in the tomb?

Text and tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Closing Comments

With the closing of the tomb darkness fell over the land and it appeared that all hope was lost. Jesus was dead, the disciples on the run, and Satan’s victory seemed assured. But Jesus’ words “IT IS FINISHED” were not the end- they were a beginning. And so we go out, in silence as we remember the sacrifice, but also in eager anticipation of Christ’s victory over the grave. The light had gone out of the world, BUT THEN CAME SUNDAY. Go in peace and await the resurrection.

Depart in Silence Awaiting the Resurrection

JESUS IS ALIVE

Easter

HE IS RISEN

April 5 | 8:30 & 10:15 am