



Good Friday April 3, 2026
St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254
815-989-2025

April 3, 2026 Good Friday

***** All
enter and are seated in the sanctuary in reverent silence.

Stand

P Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C O come, let us worship Him.

Service of the Word

Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ²**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁴**In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

⁵To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶**But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸**“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”**

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰**On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.** ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. ¹²**Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

¹³they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴**I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;**

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶**For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;**

they have pierced my hands and feet—

¹⁷I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸**they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.**

¹⁹But you, O Lord, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰**Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!**

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen! ²²**I
will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

²³You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴**For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my
vows I will perform before those who fear him. ²⁶**The
afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸**For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before
him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the
one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰**Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;** ³¹they
shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

P Let us pray.

Holy and gracious Father, when your Son hung on the cross, he cried out to you in agony and grief. You gave him the strength to endure so that death might be destroyed and life restored to us by His suffering, death, and resurrection. Have mercy on us all our days and preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. C Amen.

Entrance Hymn 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Collect of the Day

P 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading (*see insert*) *Isaiah 52:13—53:12* P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Collect

P Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Epistle (*See insert*) *Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9* P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Collect

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive for givenness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ,

our Lord.

C Amen.

Holy Gospel (*See insert*) *Matthew 27:38-54* P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 27th chapter. **C Glory to You, O Lord.**

After the Reading

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day 448 O Darkest Woe

Sermon

Text: Zechariah 3:1-10

Title: "Gone in a Single Day"

Hymn of Response 453 Upon the Cross Extended

Reproaches

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

Hymn 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy (v. 1)

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

Hymn 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy (v. 2)

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for

it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

Hymn 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy (v. 3)

Prayer of the Church

P O Father of all mercy and love, we humbly come before You on this anniversary of Christ's death to thank You for taking pity on our lost condition, and for loving us sinners so much that You delivered up Your Son to the cross for us all. Be cause it pleased You to permit suffering and death to strike Him instead of us, we have full pardon for our sins and release from all punishment. Grant to each of us a true and abiding faith by which our sin-weary souls may find the peace our Savior promised, a peace which comes from being reunited with You, our heavenly Father.

Dear Savior Jesus Christ, with Your triumphant cry of victory from the cross You brought to a close Your blessed work of redeeming us from our sins. Mortal tongues can never express all the praise due to You for this gift of Your love, namely, Your body given into death and Your blood shed for our sins. Oh, what joy, what hope, what comfort is ours in the midst of sin and affliction, knowing that our sins are forgiven and that we are redeemed through Your sacrifice. May our hearts never stray from You and may we never cease praising You. Sprinkle our sins with Your blood and blot out our many transgressions from God's sight forever. As long as we live, shower us with Your grace, bestowing every needful blessing upon our souls and bodies.

O Holy Spirit, whose gracious life-giving power has awakened us from spiritual death and united us by faith to our crucified and risen Redeemer, grant that our sinful flesh be crucified with Christ, that dying to sin we might live always unto Him in righteousness. As You bestow on our hearts peace through the cross, help us also to take up and bear our own crosses after Christ, confessing His holy name. As it pleases You to keep us in

the true faith, may it also please You to bring the good news of Christ's victory over death to others, that together with us they may enjoy everlasting life and salvation, all to the glory of our Redeemer's name, the only name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved, who together with You and the Father, is

**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.**

to be praised forever. C **Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray: C
**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,**

The Adoration of Christ

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C **We adore You, O Lord, and we praise and glorify Your
holy resurrection. For behold, by the wood of Your cross joy has
come into all the world.**

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C **God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to
shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.**

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C **By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.**

Hymn to Depart 452 O Perfect Life of Love

The lights are dimmed and the candles are extinguished in recognition of the death of the Light of the World. Please use this time for silent prayer. The processional cross is carried out of the sanctuary in remembrance of our Lord's body being carried to the tomb. In reverent silence, we follow the cross out just as the faithful women followed the Lord's body to where it was laid. We retire to our homes in contemplation of the meaning of Christ's death for us and in the certain hope of the Easter victory soon to be celebrated.

* About tonight's service:

The worship services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday compose the Triduum (“Three days”), having a unified character. Good Friday, which may have originally been derived from “God’s Friday,” stands at the heart and center of the Triduum even as Christ’s death on the cross, stands at the heart and center of the Christian faith and life. This is why *the cross* is the primary symbol of the Christian faith.

Acknowledgements

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Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ²For 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, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his

mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶Let 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. . . .

⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Holy Gospel: John 19:17-30

¹⁷[Jesus] went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of

Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,²⁴ so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things,²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.