

Good Friday
Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church



Opening Hymn

"Glory Be to Jesus" – Hymn 433

**Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins!**

**Grace and life eternal In that blood I find
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!**

**Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!**

**Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies
But the blood Jesus For our pardon cries.**

**Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high
Angels hosts rejoicing Make their glad replay.**

**Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!**

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–76; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Invocation and Opening Sentences

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin,

C: **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**

P: He was wounded for our transgressions;

C: **He was crushed for our iniquities;**

P: upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C: **and with His stripes we are healed.**

Confession and Absolution

P: Lord our God, You took upon Your shoulders the weight of fallen humanity, becoming the sin offering for us so that we are made righteous in Your sight. Hear us as we bow before Your cross and lay our sins at Your feet.

In silent prayer, we bring the burdens of our sins to Jesus.

P: Gracious Father,

C: have mercy upon us. We are undeserving of Your love.

P: Loving Lord Jesus,

C: take our sins from us. Show us the depths of Your love, found only in the cross.

P: Renewing Holy Spirit,

C: Guide us and lead us. Enable us by faith to cling to the grace that alone can save. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His great mercy has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross so that we may die to sin and live in His righteousness. By His wounds, you have been healed. As a called and ordained servant of our crucified Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon us, Your people,

C: with whom Your SON exchanged places at the cross so we may forever know real life, love, and forgiveness;

P: 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 Messiah “was numbered with the transgressors” and “bore the sin of many.”)

P: The Old Testament Reading for Good Friday is taken from Isaiah, Chapters 52 and 53:

Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

As many were astonished at you—

his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
so 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.
Who has believed what he has heard from us?

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,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

He 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.

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

All 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.

He 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.

By 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?

And 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.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;

the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
Out 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.
Therefore 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

(Jesus, our High Priest, suffered for our salvation.)

P: The Epistle Reading is taken from Hebrews, Chapters 4 and 5:

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...

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

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 19:17–30

(The crucifixion of Jesus)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 19th Chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus) went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two

others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 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. 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.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When 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, 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, but standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 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. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn

"Were You There" - Hymn 456

**Were You there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh —
Some times it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh —
Some times it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh —**

**Some times it caused me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?**

**Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Some times it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?**

Text: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.

Tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.; setting: C. Winfred Douglas, 1867–1944

Text and music: Public domain

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

A: 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

The Service of Darkness

Based on the Words Spoken by Our Lord from the Cross

The First Word

Luke 23:33–34

("Father, forgive them . . .")

P: And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

P: Father, we are brought almost to tears as we stand at the foot of the cross.

C: We find it difficult to comprehend how much Your love did for us.
P: Lord Jesus, we stand in awe of Your forgiving those who nailed You to the cross.
C: Help us to learn to forgive those who hurt us in the same way.
P: Open our eyes,
C: that we may see Your love more clearly in the death of Your Son. Hymn

Hymn

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” Hymn 450, Stanzas 1-4

**O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

**How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was thy transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.**

**My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heavenly joys above.**

The First Candle is Extinguished

The Second Word

Luke 23:39-43

(“Today you will be with Me in paradise.”)

P: One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

P: Lord Jesus, open our eyes,

C: that we, too, may glimpse the goodness of this day, even in the midst of uncertainty and sadness.
P: Guide and direct us
C: into Your paradise which awaits us, and reveal Your perfect peace
P: Heavenly Father, grant us
C: a richer awareness of the hope that You provide in Your Son Jesus.
P: Help us to cling every day to the life You have given to us,
C: and by Your Holy Spirit, help us to glorify You in all that we do.

Hymn

“Jesus I Will Ponder Now,” Hymn 440, Stanzas 1-3

**Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your Suff’ring, pain, and death That I may not perish**

**Make me see Your great distress Anguish, and affliction
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion
Make me see how scourge and rod Spear and nails did wound You
How for them You died, O God Who with thorns had crowned You**

**Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion
But its cause to me make known And its termination
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion**

The Second Candle is Extinguished

The Third Word

John 19:25–27

(“Behold your son. . . . Behold your mother.”)

P: But standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

P: Lord God, may we learn from our Lord's example to love others as You have loved us;
C: while seeing the worst we find in others and in ourselves yet rejoicing in the forgiveness and acceptance we have received from You and share with others.
P: Encourage us to strive by the power of the Holy Spirit

C: toward greater unity in our own families and toward unity in the family of believers in Christ Jesus.

Hymn

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” – Hymn 450, Stanzas 5 and 7

**What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

**Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.**

The Third Candle is Extinguished

The Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45–46

(“My God, My God . . .”)

P: 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?”

P: Lord, we would never forsake You,

C: **but in our lives, we sometimes forget You.**

P: Lord, we would never condemn You, shouting “crucify!”

C: **although we have allowed evil to be done in Your name.**

P: Lord, we would never deny You, saying, “I do not know the man!”

C: **but we have avoided opportunities to witness to Your love and to share the good news of salvation in Your name.**

P: Lord, we would never shut You out of our lives,

C: **yet we confess that our own selfishness hides Your presence and love from us.
Forgive us, O Lord.**

Hymn

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” – Hymn 451, Stanzas 1 & 4

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree! ‘
Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, ‘tis He, ‘tis He!
‘Tis the long expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;**

Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

**Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.**

The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

The Fifth Word

John 19:28-29

P: After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 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.

P: Lord Jesus, sometimes we forget that the pain and anguish You suffered was human pain and anguish.

C: **We often feel sorry for ourselves, without realizing what You suffered on our behalf.**

P: Having given Your life on our behalf,

C: **help us to be bold in proclaiming Your name, despite the cost to us.**

P: By Your suffering and death on our behalf,

C: **grant us the gift of life, life that is lived for Your glory.**

Hymn

"The Lamb" - Hymn 547, stanzas 1-4

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering,
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward wheel their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness,
He lives, forgives, he give me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

The Fifth Candle is Extinguished

The Sixth Word

John 19:30

("It is finished.")

P: When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P: Open our eyes, Lord;

C: the shadow of Your Son's cross encompasses all our world.

P: Teach our hearts, O Lord,

C: that when our last hour comes, we may confidently commit ourselves into Your loving arms.

P: Lead us, Lord,

C: that we may follow You through the valley of the shadow of death into the place prepared for us at Your throne in Paradise.

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished

The Seventh Word

Luke 23:44–49

("Father, into Your hands . . .")

P: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

P: Lord Jesus, in Your death we have life.

C: We give You thanks that You finished the course set by the Father, that leads to our salvation.

P: By Your holy death,

C: strengthen us to remain faithful unto death, that we may receive the crown of life You have earned for us.

P: Lead and guide us, O Lord, beyond the darkness of sin into the light of Your grace,
C: **that we need not wander in the darkness forever, but may see Your glorious light.**

The Christ Candle is Taken from the Sanctuary

The Lord's Prayer Is Spoken Softly

A: **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.**

Strepitus

(A loud noise symbolizing the closing of Christ's tomb.)

The Christ Candle Returns

Benediction

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: **Amen.**