



## GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3, 2026 | 10:00 AM AND 7:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

### ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

In the Book of Exodus, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go seven times (Ex 5:1; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3), and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel's Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times! Throughout the book, God reveals who He is through His absence and His presence, through His silence and His speech, through His wrath and His mercy, and through His judgment and His amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of our Savior Jesus.

Good Friday is the second of the three days in which the full story of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection unfold. We call this Friday "good" because of what Jesus accomplished in His sacrifice at Calvary's cross. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18-19 ESV).

This service is patterned after the traditional Tenebrae service. The word "Tenebrae" is from the Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." With each successive reading in today's service, the candles are extinguished and the lights dimmed to remind us of Christ's suffering and death for us and for our salvation.

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**P** Pastor      **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.

*All gather in silence.*

## INTRODUCTION

### OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 12:1-14*

*The Lord commands the Israelites to observe the Passover.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

<sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

<sup>4</sup>And if the household is too small for a

lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.

<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of

the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

<sup>7</sup>“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in

your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### **OPENING SENTENCES** *selected verses of Psalm 80 NIV*

**P** Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us,

**C** that we may be saved.

**P** You transplanted a vine from Egypt;

**C** you drove out the nations and planted it.

**P** You cleared the ground for it,

**C** and it took root and filled the land.

**P** The mountains were covered with its shade,

**C** the mighty cedars with its branches.

**P** Its branches reached as far as the Sea,

**C** its shoots as far as the River.

**P** Why have you broken down its walls

**C** so that all who pass by pick its grapes?

**P** Boars from the forest ravage it,

**C** and insects from the fields feed on it.

**P** Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us,

**C** that we may be saved.

#### **OPENING HYMN 425** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

**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.

## **GATHERING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.*



### **The Prayer in Gethsemane**

**FIRST READING** *Matthew 26:30–46*

*Silence for reflection. The first candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN 438** *“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”*



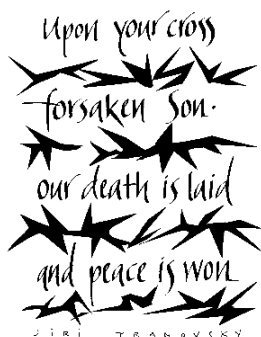
### **The Arrest of Jesus**

**SECOND READING** *Matthew 26:47–56*

*Silence for reflection. The second candle is extinguished.*

**ORGAN SOLO** *(10 am)*  
*“Do Not Despair, O Little Flock”*  
*setting by Michael Burkhardt*

**ANTHEM** *(7 pm, Joyful Sounds Choir)*  
*“Ah, Holy Jesus” arr. Craig Courtney*





## The Trial before Caiaphas

### THIRD READING *Matthew 26:57–68 NIV*

**P** Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’”

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

**C** “**He is worthy of death.**”

**P** Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, “Prophesy to us, Christ. Who hit you?”

*Silence for reflection. The third candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN 451** “*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*”



## Peter Denies Jesus

### FOURTH READING *Matthew 26:69–75*

*Silence for reflection. The fourth candle is extinguished.*

**ORGAN SOLO** (10 am)  
"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"  
setting by Johann Gottfried Walther

**ANTHEM** (7 pm, Vocal Ensemble)  
"O Savior, Look upon the Tears"  
text by Lisa M. Clark  
music by Jacob B. Weber



## Jesus Stands Trial before Pilate

**FIFTH READING** *Matthew 27:1–2, 11–26 NIV*

- P** Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. . . .  
Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"  
"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.  
When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.  
Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.  
While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."  
But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.  
"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.
- C** "Barabbas."  
**P** "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.  
**C** "Crucify him!"  
**P** "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.  
**C** "Crucify him!"  
**P** When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"  
**C** "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"  
**P** Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

*Silence for reflection. The fifth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN 450** *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”* (vv. 1, 5–7)



**The Crucifixion**

**SIXTH READING** *Matthew 27:27–50*

*Silence for reflection. The sixth candle is extinguished.*

**ORGAN SOLO** (10 am)  
*“Herliebster Jesu”*  
setting by Allan Mahnke

**ANTHEM** (7 pm, Joyful Sounds Choir)  
*“’Tis Finished!”* by Deborah Govenor



**The Burial**

**SEVENTH READING** *Matthew 27:51–61*

*Silence for reflection. The seventh candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN 456** *“Were You There”* (vv. 1–3)

*The Christ Candle is removed, signifying Christ’s death and burial.*

*A loud sound is heard to symbolize the earthquake at the crucifixion  
and the closing of Jesus’ tomb.*

*The Christ Candle is returned to its place reminding us that Christ defeated  
the powers of darkness and anticipating our Easter celebration.*

**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.**

*The omission of the benediction today indicates our Holy Week worship is not complete until Easter's celebration. Experience the good news yet to come at the Sunrise Service at 6:00 am and the Festival of the Resurrection at 8:00 and 10:30 am Easter Sunday!*

*All leave the sanctuary in silence.*

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**SERVING IN THIS SERVICE**

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgists*  
Katie Drefs, *Organist*  
Mary Nierman, Kathryn Oetting, Elaina Rankin, *Accompanists*  
Jared Beerman, Julie Bonar, Melissa Heath, Andy Jones,  
Quentin Jones, Wyatt Jones, Jameson Oetting, Mark Oetting,  
Allison Rankin, Elaina Rankin, Elijah Rankin, Sarah Sullivan,  
Ella Virus, Kaleb Virus, Kelly Virus, *Vocal Ensemble (7 pm)*



"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

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