

Jesus said,
"It is completed."



JOHN 19:30



First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
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APRIL 3, 2026

GOOD FRIDAY

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

As our Lenten observance comes to an end, we gather with Christians around the world to recall the Holy Three Days of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. These final three days of Holy Week have become known as the Tridium and their services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) are considered continuous rather than stand alone. Which is why there is no Sending or Dismissal at the end of these services and the congregation is asked to leave in silence until we rejoin for the following service.

On this Good Friday, we remember Christ's ultimate sacrifice for our sake by his death on the cross. As we gather at the foot of his cross, we remember his parting words and ponder the depth of his compassion. One ancient way to do this is the service of Tenebrae, also known as the Service of Darkness, because a candle is extinguished with each last word of Jesus recounted. The final act of this service is the "closing of the tomb," which is a loud sound recalling the great stone rolled in front of Jesus' tomb. Once you've heard that "closing of the tomb," we ask you to depart in solemn silence, anticipating Easter morning.

PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION

INVOCATION

We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WE LIFT OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE TO GOD

RESPONSIVE READING

Great God, we acknowledge that we are not always able to recognize Your ways as good.

We confess that we are, at times, confounded;

As on Good Friday, when we commemorate the death of one so dear to us,

The Savior, Christ the King.

As a seed must pass through death to sprout new life,

So Jesus Christ has passed into death.

Taking the nature of a human, a servant,

He made himself nothing.

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death,

Even death on a cross!

For three days, we wait with him, for death to accomplish its purpose;

For Christ's sacrifice to be made meaningful;

For Christ to re-imagine death.

We grieve, even while we are hopeful.

We wait, and as the stone seals Christ's body in the tomb, even then we say:

"Oh Death, Where is your sting? O Grave, Where is your victory?"

And we acknowledge Your good way, the confounding way of obedience to death

That brings us toward life and hope. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN

347

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" v.1

GOOD FRIDAY GOSPEL READING (*Pew Bible p. 880*) John 18:1-19:42

Our gospel reading for this evening is from the Gospel according to Saint John, the eighteenth chapter, beginning with verse one.

¹[Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers

together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” ⁵They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?” ¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

HYMN

#347

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” v.2

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. ¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.”

²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"
²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. ²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) ³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"
³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

HYMN

#347

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" v.3

^{19:1}Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be

the Son of God.”⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever.⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?”¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha.¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!”

¹⁵They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.”¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

HYMN

#351

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” v. 1

So they took Jesus;¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.²⁴ So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.”²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

HYMN

#351

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” v. 2

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. ²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. ³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

HYMN

#351

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” v. 3

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suff'ring and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.**

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SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

The word Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It can also be translated as "night" or "death." The Tenebrae service is an ancient tradition in Christian history that took place on Good Friday. It is characterized by a gradual extinguishing of candles, and by a "strepitus" or "loud noise" taking place in total darkness near the end of the service. This loud noise is symbolic of Christ's tomb being sealed by a large stone.

FIRST WORD FROM THE CROSS

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. (Luke 23:34)

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The First Candle is extinguished.

HYMN

#349

"Ah, Holy Jesus" v. 1

SECOND WORD FROM THE CROSS

Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise, (Luke 23:43)

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Second Candle is extinguished.

HYMN

#349

"Ah, Holy Jesus" v. 2

THIRD WORD FROM THE CROSS

Woman, behold your son; Son, behold your mother. (John 19:26)

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Third Candle is extinguished.

HYMN

#349

“Ah, Holy Jesus” v. 3

FOURTH WORD FROM THE CROSS

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Mark 15:34)

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Fourth Candle is extinguished.

HYMN

#349

“Ah, Holy Jesus” v. 4

FIFTH WORD FROM THE CROSS

I thirst! (John 19:28)

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Fifth Candle is extinguished.

HYMN

#349

“Ah, Holy Jesus” v. 5

SIXTH WORD FROM THE CROSS

It is Finished! (John 19:30)

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Sixth Candle is extinguished

SPECIAL MUSIC

GRACE NOTE CHOIR

“The Son of God in Tears”

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SEVENTH WORD FROM THE CROSS

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. (Luke 23:46)

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Seventh Candle is extinguished.

SPECIAL MUSIC

PASTOR MIKE KNAUFF

“Were You There”

The Christ Candle is taken out.
After a time, the “strepitus” (loud noise) is heard,
signifying the closing of Christ’s tomb.
Please leave the sanctuary in silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET WELL SOON! Jane Winston has moved. If you would like to send her a get well soon card, please contact the office for her new address.

PENNY POWER: The Penny Power focus for March was Camp Magical Moments. In April, Penny Power will be helping the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) to spread the love of Jesus. CMA is a non-profit, interdenominational ministry dedicated to reaching people for Christ in the highways and byways through the passion of motorcycling.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Bible study will conclude at the end of April. The Ladies' Book Club is tackling the book of Acts. Join us as we study how the Holy Spirit worked through the Apostles to spread the Gospel through the known world. There are lots of great stories to enjoy as we follow Peter and then Paul in their leadership roles. We will meet Rhoda and Lydia, and be shipwrecked with Paul. You won't want to miss it! We meet Wednesdays from 2 to 3 pm. As always, there is no outside reading or study, and no extra book to buy. Just bring your Bible – and maybe a friend. If you forget your Bible or don't have one, the church owns many for your use. (So – no excuses!)

NEW COUNTERS NEEDED: The Finance Ministry Team is looking for two people to form another counting team. The team will only need to count the offering after church once a month. Please contact Paul Bayless or May Hustad if you are interested.

CALLING ALL TECH-MINDED INDIVIDUALS! We need more help with our worship service livestream. Our online community has expanded. We currently stream to almost 100 online viewers each week. This is an amazing platform to reach out to those beyond our church walls. This opportunity is open to our high school and college students, as well as anyone who is interested in learning a new skill. Please contact Paul Bayless for more information.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY @ 10:15AM :We invite you to our celebration of Jesus Christ's victory over death. **Easter Sunday** is undoubtedly the key Holy Day of the entire Christian year. It is the joyful conclusion of the Lenten season devoted to prayer, fasting, and penitence. Lent happily gives way to the exuberance of the Easter proclamation of "Christ is Risen!" Our worship will include not only our King's Men but also the sounds of the Round About Brass ensemble. Following the morning worship services families are invited to gather at the back of the fellowship hall as the meeting place for our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

FELC ANNUAL YARD SALE

Saturday, June 6 | 8 am - 2 pm |

Save the date! AND start saving your clean, usable stuff!!

Your help is so important and is greatly appreciated! You can plan on helping by: donating, volunteering, healthy snacks, shopping, and praying for a beautiful day!

More details to come

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?



If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email office@firstlc.com. All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING, OR GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME:

Donna Amundson; Betty Benjamin (*Lisa Mullinix's mother*); Charlotte Benson; Dean Benson; Kevin Call; Tracy Coburn; Devyn, Corden & Elias Cox (*Cal Miller's family*); Wendy Cudmore; Dayna Dabauras; Laura Dean; Joan Douglas (*Bev Novak's sister*); Bobbie Eddie (*Barbara Carlson's father*); Josephine Fife (*Julie Reinwald's mother*); Steve Galbraith; Sharon Gilbert; Jo & Al Glissendorf; Jeanne Griffes-Koeplin; Diane Hackman; Steve Hammond; Bill Hayes; Jack Heier; Tami Henvit; Sue Hindman; Jose Holtz; Cathy Homberg (*Heather Catanese's sister*); Ann Hurley; Lexi Jensen (*Rebecca Jackson's cousin*); Vickie John; Lynn Parshall Kinghorn (*Alecia Coburn's former mother-in-law*); Mary Krippner; Daniel Lance (*Cal Miller's brother-in-law*); Austin Leger (*Heather Catanese's son*); Allan Magnuson; Mike Martin; Adara McClure (*Jeannie Campbell's daughter*); Bob McGee (*Richard Magnuson's friend*); Tim Metcalf; Vicky Mickelson (*Becky Jackson's aunt*); Cal Miller; Dick Mitchell; Wendy Morgan (*Larry Hudman's sister*); Bob Neff; Josh Neis; Don Newman (*Richard Magnuson's cousin*); Mary Pilkington; Mark Pischer (*Cal Miller's son-in-law*); Priscilla Rainey; Patricia Richardson (*Dustin Jackson's aunt*); Cindy Robello; Laura Schoonmaker; Julie Sundberg; Scot Swenson (*Vernal & Jackie Swenson's son*); Kathy Tauscher; Deborah Vavra; Chris Weaver; Jane Winston; Daniel & Sarah Young; Cameron (*DiAnn Brown's niece's husband*); Oakley (*Nonda Meyer's great granddaughter*)

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

TJ Litteer; Brianna Townsend; Jody Townsend

MUSTERING OUT THIS MONTH; THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Andrew Mitchell; Mike Monroe; Mike Stultz

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR RESTORED HEALTH:

Peggy Buhr; Barrett (*Cara Dahlberg's nephew*); Scottie Grace; Amelia McDaniel; Pat Matthews

THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	
TODAY GOOD FRIDAY 4/3/2026	
7:15 pm	Good Friday Service - Sanctuary
SATURDAY 4/4/2026	
EASTER SUNDAY 4/5/2026	
9:00 am	Adult Forum - Library
9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
9:00 am	Sunday School - Youth Room
10:15 am	Easter Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Easter Egg Hunt
11:30 am	King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary
3:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice - Narthex

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Usher Coordinator: **Ryan Dixon**

Reader: **Marda Kirkwood**

Usher: **Scott Berger**

Collection Specialist: **Andrew Swenson**

Streaming Technician: **Paul Bayless**

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FELC LEADERSHIP

MINISTERS: **All the Members of FELC**
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Church Administrator: Julie Sagnimeni e-mail: office@firstlc.com
Youth & Family Minister: Heather Catanese e-mail: youth@firstlc.com
Bookkeeper: Greg Stultz e-mail: bookkeeper@firstlc.com
Music Director: Michelle Hanson e-mail: musicdirector@firstlc.com
Choir Accompanist: Heidi Bessette.....
Praise Band Director: Steve Galbraith
Pastor Emeritus/Minister of Welcome: Pastor Larry Cudmore
Preschool Director: Barbara Carlson flpreschoolif@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday Closed

Web Page: www.firstlc.com • Phone: 208-522-9301

Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Year to date Income thru February \$67,466; Year to date Expenses thru February \$66,001

Year to date net Cash Flow thru February \$1,465

Last Week's in Worship Attendance: 161, Live Stream: 67