

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3, 2026

12:00 Noon & 6:30 P.M.

We extend a most cordial welcome to all of you who have included this Good Friday Worship service in your Holy Week plans. We welcome especially those of you who are guests and visitors. You are always most welcome to worship your Savior with us at Chapel of the Cross. We would be favored if you would please sign our Fellowship Register located at the end of each pew. May God bless your holy week!

Our worship service this Good Friday is a variation of the *Tenebrae Service* traditionally conducted on Good Friday to impress upon believers in Jesus the awful consequences of sin, and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice. The term "Tenebrae" means darkness, and immediately we are reminded of the darkness which covered the earth at the time of Christ's crucifixion and death.

The narration this day (which takes the place of the sermon) will be given from the back of the church. Our hope is that you would have an unobstructed view of the cross.

The mood of the service is not only meditative, but it is also somewhat somber. The chancel is stripped of decoration and flowers. All appointments have been removed so that all that remains is the cross. The congregation even remains seated throughout the service (until the Dismissal and Benediction) to help remind us that our worship today is truly different and special.

The gradual extinguishing of the candles in the chancel is to remind the congregation of the gathering darkness that hung about Jesus as He moved through the entire Passion History. The central candle is called the Christ candle, and its removal from the altar symbolizes Christ's death and burial. (It is not extinguished.) But then the candle is returned to the altar. Darkness, death and burial could not prevail—nor could they defeat the Light of Christ! He lives to be the Light of the world! The symbolic candle burns on - - and we enjoy its warmth and light in our hearts and lives.

The Order of Worship

(The congregation will remain seated throughout the service)

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Michael Burkhardt

INVOCATION

(narration)

WE OFFER THE CRUCIFIED SAVIOR OUR VOICES

HYMN

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

**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.**

**Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav’n above, Sing Your praise forever.**

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WE OFFER THE CRUCIFIED SAVIOR OUR PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Lord Jesus, we come this Good Friday to Your cross, pleading for mercy and forgiveness. Our sins have added to the burden of Your suffering; but we know that Your crucifixion at Calvary was for us, too! Grant that we might find hope in Your Word. Comfort us in Your promises: salvation in Your finished work on the cross and the gift of heaven and eternal life through faith in You. Hear our prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.

WE OFFER THE CRUCIFIED SAVIOR OUR GIFTS

(Our offerings of love are received by the ushers.)

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

J. S. Bach

WE OFFER THE CRUCIFIED SAVIOR OUR HEARTS

HYMN

“My Faith Looks Trustingly”

**May Your rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart, My zeal inspire;
As You have died for me, My love, adoringly,
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!**

+ WE REMEMBER THE LIFE OF CHRIST JESUS +

THE COMING OF THE SAVIOR

(narration)

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR

(narration)

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE SAVIOR

(narration)

HYMN

“Come unto Me, Ye Weary”

**“Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest.”
O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending, Of love that cannot cease.**

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF THE SAVIOR

(narration)

HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

**All glory, laud, and honor To You, Redeemer King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the King of Israel And David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s name coming, Our King and Blessed One.**

**All glory, laud, and honor To You, Redeemer King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.**

ANTHEM

12:00 "The Old Rugged Cross"

*On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain (Refrain)*

*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*

*In the old rugged Cross, stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For the dear Lamb of God, left His Glory above
To pardon and sanctify me (Refrain)*

*To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share (Refrain)*

*I was a wand'ring sheep,
 I did not love the fold,
 I did not love my Shepherd's voice,
 I would not be controlled.
 I was a wayward child.
 I did not love my home.
 I did not love my Father's voice,
 I loved a-far to roam.*

*The Shepherd sought his sheep.
 The Father sought his child;
 He followed me o'er vale and hill,
 O'er deserts waste and wild:
 He found me nigh to death
 And famished, faint, alone;
 He bound me with the bands of love,
 He saved the wand'ring one.*

*The Lord my Shepherd is;
 'Twas he that loved my soul,
 'Twas he that washed me in his blood,
 'Twas he that made me whole;
 'Twas he that sought the lost,
 That found the wand'ring sheep;
 'Twas he that brought me to the fold;
 'Tis he that still doth keep.*

*No more a wand'ring sheep,
 No more does sin control;
 I love my tender Shepherd's voice;
 I love the peaceful fold:
 No more a wayward child.
 I seek no more to roam;
 I love my heavenly Father's voice;
 I love, I love his home.*

THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE SAVIOR

(narration)

HYMN

“Were You There”

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh ... Sometimes 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 ... Sometimes 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 ... Sometimes it causes 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?
Oh ... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

+ WE REMEMBER THE LAST WORDS AND DEATH OF THE SAVIOR +

THE VOICE FROM THE CROSS

(narration)

HYMN

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

- 1 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.

- 3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the 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.

- 5 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.

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HYMN

430 My Song is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!

- 7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

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THE VOICE FROM THE CROSS

(narration)

HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!
This is Christ, by man rejected; Here, my soul, your Savior see.
He’s the long-expected prophet, David’s son, yet David’s Lord.
Proofs I see sufficient of it: He’s the true and faithful Word.**

**Tell me, all who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like this?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.**

**You who think of sin but lightly Nor supposed the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; See who bears the awful load;
It’s the word, the Lord’s Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.**

**Here we have a firm foundation; Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ, the rock of our salvation, His 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 church is silent for a moment and the Christ Candle is removed, symbolizing the death and burial of our Lord and Savior. You are invited to offer God a silent prayer.

PRAYER (spoken by all)

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

LORD'S PRAYER (spoken by all)

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.

Please stand

DISMISSAL (spoken by all)

Lord, now let Your servants depart in peace according to Your Word; For our eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared before the face of all people; A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

BENEDICTION (spoken by all)

Peace be with you! In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! Amen!

ONE CANDLE still burns in the chancel. That candle symbolizes our Easter conviction: "Jesus lives!" In anticipation, then, of the Easter celebration, we will hum two stanzas of the hymn "I Know that My Redeemer Lives." The words are printed here for your meditation and anticipation.

*I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head!*

*He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.*

(You may wish to leave the church quietly reflecting on the awesome work of our Savior, Jesus Christ, for you.)

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Serving at Chapel

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|-------------------------|---|
| Worship Leader: | Theodore Laesch |
| Acolytes: | 12:00 p.m. Anna Zvirgzdins 6:30 p.m. Nathan Runser |
| Singer: | 12:00 p.m. Mark Petersen |
| Choir: | 6:30 p.m. Choral Singers |
| Organist & Accompanist: | Rev. Arthur Eichhorn |

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EASTER VIGIL
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
(Holy Communion at all services)
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