



# OUR SAVIOR'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

GROWING IN OUR SAVIOR

GOING OUT TO SHARE HIS LOVE



APRIL 18, 2025  
6:30PM

## Introduction

Good Friday commemorates and celebrates the focal point of the Christian faith and life: the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation from sin, death, the devil, and hell. The name of the day reminds us that our highest and chief Good is the vicarious atonement and the gift of re-created life that our Lord accomplished for us on this sixth day of the week. The name "Good Friday" suggests there is no reason to invest the day's worship with a spirit of funeral gloom, desolation, or mourning. Rather our mood should be one of solemn, restrained praise. Jesus was not a helpless victim, but willingly gave himself into real suffering, torture, and death for us.

Through the words and actions of this service we observe the completion of Jesus' saving work and pass into the shadows of Tenebrae (darkness) as our Lord's body is placed in the tomb.

As we open the service, the bell tolls thirty-three times, symbolizing the years of life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Opening Collect

P 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.**

## Isaiah 53 - The Atonement (Responsive Reading)

Who has believed what he has heard from us?<sup>[a]</sup>

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

**<sup>2</sup> 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.**

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected<sup>[b]</sup> by men,  
a man of sorrows<sup>[c]</sup> and acquainted with<sup>[d]</sup> grief;<sup>[e]</sup>  
and as one from whom men hide their faces<sup>[f]</sup>  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.**

<sup>5</sup> 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.

**6 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.**

**7 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.**

**8 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?**

**9 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.**

**10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;  
 he has put him to grief;<sup>[a]</sup>  
 when his soul makes<sup>[b]</sup> an offering for guilt,  
 he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
 the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.**

**11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see<sup>[c]</sup> and be satisfied;  
 by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
 make many to be accounted righteous,  
 and he shall bear their iniquities.**

**12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,<sup>[d]</sup>  
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,<sup>[e]</sup>  
 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.**

**Choir Anthem:** *The Love of God* by Marty Goetz, arr. Bill Wolaver

### **Holy Gospel**

John 19:17-30

*So they took Jesus,<sup>17</sup> and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.<sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.<sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup> 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.'" <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic.<sup>[d]</sup> But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,<sup>24</sup> 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,<sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> 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 - 440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now *sts. 1, 6*



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;  
6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; Help me bear my cross - es,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.  
Learn - ing hum - ble - ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss - es.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish  
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.  
That I may in heav'n a - bove Sing Your praise for - ev - er.

## The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross

### The First Word: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Luke 23: 32-34

<sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**"<sup>[b]</sup> And they cast lots to divide his garments.

### Prayer - First candle extinguished

Hymn: 450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded sts. 1-2

1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!

Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
How doth Thy face now lan-guish That once was bright as morn!

O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;

Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

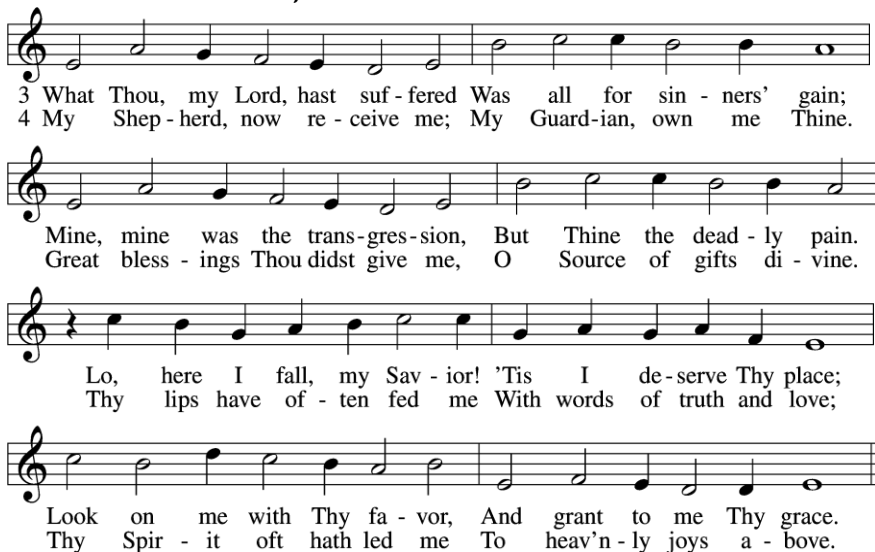
### The Second Word: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23: 39-43

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him,<sup>[d]</sup> saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, "**Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.**"

## Prayer - Second candle extinguished

### Hymn: 450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded sts. 3-4



3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer'd Was all for sin - ners' gain;  
4 My Shep - herd, now re - ceive me; My Guard - ian, own me Thine.

Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.  
Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.

Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;  
Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;

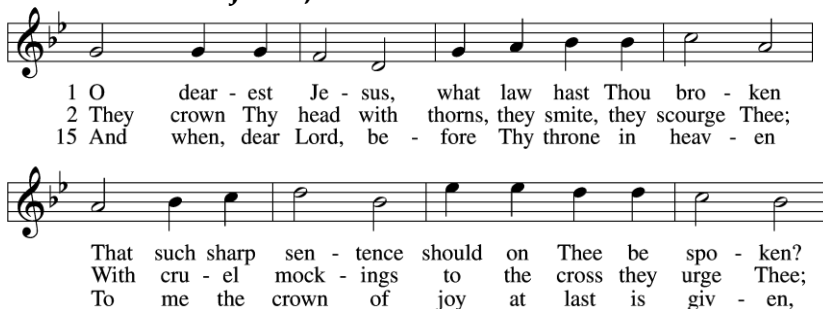
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.  
Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.

### The Third Word: "Woman, behold, your son!" "Behold, your mother!" John 19:25-27

*<sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*

## Prayer - Third candle extinguished

### Hymn: 439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken sts. 1-2, 15



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
15 And when, dear Lord, be - fore Thy throne in heav - en

That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;  
To me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,

Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -  
 Where sweet - est hymns Thy saints for - ev - er

fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?  
 cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.  
 raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

The Fourth Word: **“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”** that is, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

Matthew 27: 45-46

<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour<sup>[f]</sup> there was darkness over all the land<sup>[g]</sup> until the ninth hour.<sup>[h]</sup> <sup>46</sup> 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?”**

## Prayer - Fourth candle extinguished

### 428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow *sts. 1-3*

1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,  
 2 Here the King of all the a - ges,  
 3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!

Where the blood of ere Christ was shed,  
 Throned in light don - worlds could be,  
 O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!

Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,  
 Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,  
 Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing

Per - fect God on thee has bled!  
 Cru - ci - fi - ed by sin for me.  
 All the suf - fer - ings of time!

## The Fifth Word: **"I thirst."**

John 19:28

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), **"I thirst."**

### Prayer - Fifth candle extinguished

#### 432 In Silent Pain the Eternal Son

1 In si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;  
2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ - teous - ness;  
3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;

In dark - ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.  
The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.  
To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies:

Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang - est vic - to - ry,  
For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;  
For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,

For in His bod - y on the tree He car - ries all our ill.  
He loved us to the ut - ter - most And paid for our re - lease.  
And those who love Him see His scars And look in - to His eyes.

## The Sixth Word: **"It is finished,"**

John 19: 29-37

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **"It is finished,"** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup> He who saw it has borne witness — his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth — that



you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." <sup>37</sup> And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

## **Prayer - Sixth candle extinguished**

**Choir Anthem:** *For Me*

by Cindy Berry

The Seventh Word: **"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"**

Luke 23: 44-49

<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour,<sup>[a]</sup> and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> 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. <sup>47</sup> Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" <sup>48</sup> And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

## **Prayer - Seventh candle extinguished**

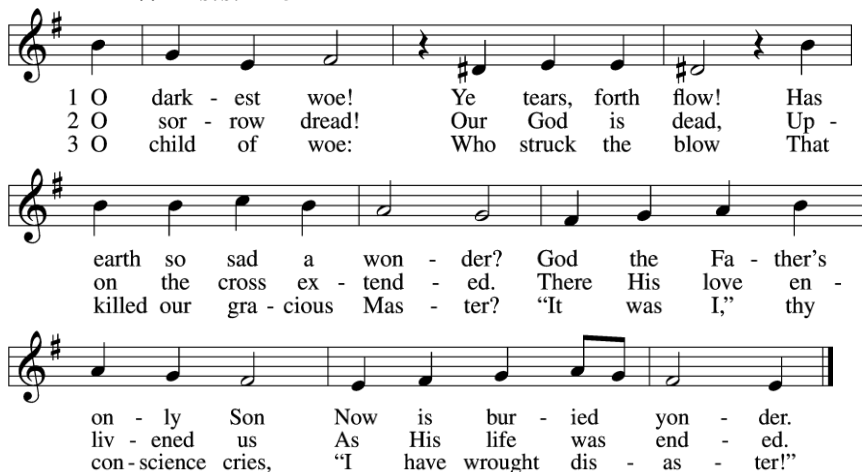
### **Final Reading and The Strepidus (the closing of the book)**

John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:60b

<sup>38</sup> After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds<sup>[b]</sup> in weight. <sup>40</sup> So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup> So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

27:60b And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

# 448 O Darkest Woe *sts. 1-3*



1 O dark - est woe! Ye tears, forth flow! Has  
 2 O sor - row dread! Our God is dead, Up -  
 3 O child of woe: Who struck the blow That

earth so sad a won - der? God the Fa - ther's  
 on the cross ex - tend - ed. There His love en -  
 killed our gra - cious Mas - ter? "It was I," thy

on - ly Son Now is bur - ied yon - der.  
 liv - ened us As His life was end - ed.  
 con - science cries, "I have wrought dis - as - ter!"

## The Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

**Depart in Silence**

## Contact us

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or mail checks directly to the church office at:

63 Mountain View Ave Albany, NY 12205.

**Thank you for your support!**

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!*

*Give thanks to him; bless his name!" (Psalm 100:4)*

