

**BIDDING PRAYER** (ELW p. 263)  
*The assembly kneels or sits. The assisting minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). Silence for prayer follows each bid. The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence.*

Let us pray, brothers and sisters.....We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (repeats 10 times)

**LORD’S PRAYER** (ELW p. 264)  
**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.**

**PROCESSION OF THE CROSS** (ELW p. 264)  
*The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward. The following dialogue is said three times, the assembly echoing the leader, at the beginning, midpoint, and end of the procession.*

Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.  
**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

**SOLEMN REPROACHES**  
...but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.** (Repeats 7 times)

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**SOLO** “WERE YOU THERE”

**SILENT RECESSIONAL**  
*The Christ Candle will be carried from the sanctuary and extinguished, symbolizing the death of Christ. The congregation is invited into silent mediation and prayer and can leave when ready.*

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**

6:45 am Sunrise Service -Columbarium

8 - 10 am Flowering of the Cross -Front Lawn

10:00 am Festival of the Resurrection -Sanctuary

**TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS**

The Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland  
Monty Bennet, Organ button pushers

Assisting Minister: Tracey Perez  
Greeter:  
Reader:  
Audio/Video:  
Ushers:  
Altar Guild:  
Altar Flowers:

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**Saint Luke’s Lutheran Church**

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Good Friday

April 18, 2025



**GOOD FRIDAY  
SERVICE OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS**

*Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness”) was the name given to the medieval predawn morning prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. In recent centuries, this monastic liturgy—despite its early morning light imagery—was transferred to Wednesday evening in Holy Week. In the monastic practice, it was a service of prayers and readings from scripture. As the light began to dawn, the candles used for reading were gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, the rising sun provided the necessary light for reading and singing.*

*In the service presented here, the extinguishing of candles has been placed within the reading of the Passion according to John, the ancient gospel narrative for the day. With this form, fourteen candles are used. Following each section, two candles are extinguished.*

*The Johannine passion account is appointed for Good Friday because the synoptic passion accounts are read in successive years on the Sunday of the Passion. John’s passion account sees Jesus’ death as his glorification. Rather than “mourning” the dying or dead Jesus on Good Friday, the cross is acclaimed as the sign of the world’s redemption. The procession of the cross and adoration of the crucified Christ become the primary symbolic action of this day. We offer honor and reverence to the one who, lifted up from the earth, draws all people to himself. This service does not end in darkness and sadness, as if the assembly were reenacting the death of Christ. Rather, the liturgy ends with Christ exalted on the cross, an image from John’s gospel.*

*The procession of the cross has an important connection to the procession of the paschal candle in the Easter Vigil. More importantly, all three days celebrate the mystery of Jesus’ dying and rising. We do not wait until Easter Sunday to see what will happen. Already on Good Friday, the church celebrates the Lord’s death and resurrection as the central event of our salvation.*

**GATHERING**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (ELW p. 262)  
**Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with your and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13—53:12** (NRSV OT p.836)

PSALM 22 (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?  
<sup>2</sup> **My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.**

<sup>3</sup> Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
<sup>4</sup> **Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.**

<sup>5</sup> They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.  
<sup>6</sup> **But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.**

<sup>7</sup> All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.  
<sup>8</sup> **“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

<sup>9</sup> Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.  
<sup>10</sup> **I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**

<sup>11</sup> Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.  
<sup>12</sup> **Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

<sup>13</sup> They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.  
<sup>14</sup> **I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

<sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.  
<sup>16</sup> **Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.**

<sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.  
<sup>18</sup> **They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.**

<sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.  
<sup>20</sup> **Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup> Save me from the lion’s mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.  
<sup>22</sup> **I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.  
<sup>24</sup> **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.  
<sup>26</sup> **The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.  
<sup>28</sup> **For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup> Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup> **Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**  
<sup>31</sup> They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

**THE PASSION ACCOURDING TO ST. JOHN**

**FIRST CANDLE**  
JOHN 18: 1-11  
*The first candle may be extinguished.*  
**“GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE” ELW 347 v. 1**

**SECOND CANDLE**  
JOHN 18:12-27  
*The second candle may be extinguished.*  
**“GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE” ELW 347 v. 2**

**THIRD CANDLE**  
JOHN 18: 28-40  
*The third candle may be extinguished.*  
**“GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE” ELW 347 v. 3**

**FOURTH CANDLE**  
JOHN 19: 1-7  
*The fourth candle may be extinguished.*  
**“GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE” ELW 347 v. 4**

**FIFTH CANDLE**  
JOHN 19: 8-16a  
*The fifth candle may be extinguished.*  
**“O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED” ELW 351 vs 1**

**SIXTH CANDLE**  
JOHN 19:16b-22  
*The sixth candle may be extinguished.*  
**“O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED” ELW 351 vs 2**

**SEVENTH CANDLE**  
JOHN 19:23-30  
*The seventh candle may be extinguished.*  
**“O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED” ELW 351 vs 3**

**EIGHTH CANDLE**  
JOHN 19: 31-42  
*The eighth candle may be extinguished.*  
**“O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED” ELW 351 vs 4**

MEDITATION	(ELW p. 263)	
HYMN OF THE DAY	“WHAT WONDEROUS LOVE IS THIS”	ELW 666