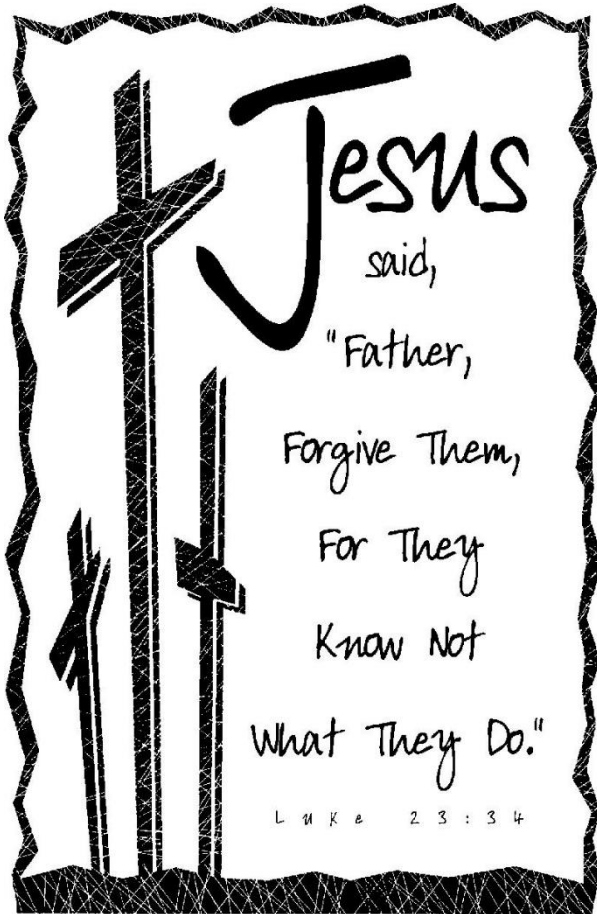


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



Tenebrae  
A Service of Darkness

Good Friday  
April 18, 2025



*Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.*

**GATHERING**

*Stand.*

**HYMN**

***Beneath the Cross of Jesus..... LBW 107***

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.
  
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.
  
- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** 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 you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C:** Amen

*Sit.*

***Reading of the Passion According to St. John***

**READING:** John 18:1-11

**HYMN**

***Jesus I Will Ponder Now, st. 1&4..... LBW 115***

*First candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for prayer*

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now  
on your holy passion;  
let your Spirit now endow  
me for meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
may the image cherish  
of your suff'ring, pain, and death,  
that I may not perish.
- 4 Let me view your pain and loss  
with repentant grieving,  
nor prepare again your cross  
by unholy living.  
May I give you love for love!  
Hear me, O my Savior,  
that I may in heav'n above  
sing your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.

**PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray:  
Lord Jesus Christ, you direct us to put our sword back into its sheath. Give us your strength to shun violence and to minister with you in a life of service and self-giving for the sake of others.

**C:** Amen

**READING: John 18:12-27**

**HYMN**

***Ah, Holy Jesus, st. 1&3*..... LBW 123**

*Second candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for prayer*

- 1    Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
     that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?  
     By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
     O most afflicted.
- 3    Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;  
     the slave hath sinnèd, and the Son hath suffered;  
     for man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,  
     God intercedeth.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

**PRAYER**

**A**: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, in our fears and hurts and lack of faith, we may deny our love for you. Forgive us our betrayal of you and love us still.

**C**: Amen

**READING: John 18:28-40**

**HYMN**

***In the Hour of Trial, st. 1-2*..... LBW 106**

*Third candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for prayer*

- 1    In the hour of trial,  
     Jesus, plead for me,  
     lest by base denial  
     I depart from thee.  
     When thou seest me waver,  
     with a look recall;  
     nor from fear or favor  
     suffer me to fall.

2 With forbidden pleasures  
should this vain world charm,  
or its sordid treasures  
spread to work me harm,  
bring to my remembrance  
sad Gethsemane,  
or, in darker semblance,  
cross-crowned Calvary.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

**PRAYER**

**P**: Let us pray:  
Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to witness to God's  
Word of Truth. Open our ears that we may hear that Word of  
Truth and know with certainty that you are that Word, the  
promise of love and peace and life into eternity.

**C**: Amen

**READING: John 19:1-8**

**HYMN**

***My Song is Love Unknown, st. 3-4..... LBW 94***

*Fourth candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for prayer*

3 Sometimes they strew his way  
and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
he gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these  
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise;  
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683

**PRAYER**

**[A]:** Let us pray:  
Lord Jesus Christ, when we are afraid, we may turn against others, even those who would love us. Remove our fear, and help us to love rather than crucify one another.

**[C]: Amen**

**READING: John 19:9-16a**

**HYMN**

***Ah, Holy Jesus, st. 2* ..... LBW 123**  
*Fifth candle is extinguished.*  
*Silence for prayer*

2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
’Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

**PRAYER**

**[P]:** Let us pray:  
Lord Jesus Christ, are you truly my King? Don’t allow the world and its loyalties to draw me against you, but to love you above all other claims to power.

**[C]: Amen**

**READING: John 19:16b-25a**

**HYMN**

***Were You There, st. 1-2* ..... LBW 92**  
*Sixth candle is extinguished.*  
*Silence for prayer*

1 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?

2 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?

Text: African American spiritual

**PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, while you hang bleeding and dying on the cross, the soldiers gamble for your clothing. As we see those in the world who suffer because they lack clothing and food and shelter, help us not to take pleasure in our blessings, but to share them that the suffering of others may end.

**C:** Amen

**READING: John 19:25b-42**

**ANTHEM**

***Scenes from a Solemn Cross..... Douglas Nolan***

*Seventh candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for prayer*

**PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, your last words spoken with your last breath were "It is finished." When our lives have finished, when we speak our last words, with our last breath, by your mercy receive us into the blessed rest of your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign forevermore as King of kings and Lord of lords.

**C:** Amen

*Please kneel.*

**ADORATION OF THE CROSS**

*(Repeat three times)*

**P:** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

**C:** Oh, come, let us worship Him.

**THE LITANY**

**P:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**P:** O Christ, have mercy upon us.

**C:** O Christ, have mercy upon us.

**P:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**P:** O God, the Father in heaven,

**C:** have mercy upon us.

**P:** O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C:** have mercy upon us.

**P:** O God, the Holy Spirit,

**C:** have mercy upon us.

**P:** Be gracious unto us,

**C:** spare us, good Lord.

**P:** O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C:** we beseech you to hear us.

**P:** O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C:** grant us your peace.

**P:** O Christ, hear us.

**C:** O Christ, hear us.

**P:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**P:** O Christ, have mercy upon us.

**C:** O Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Stand*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

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.



**PRAYER**

**P:** Lord Jesus Christ, you carried our sins in your own body on the cross so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

**Silence for prayer**

*We leave in silence, anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday.*

**SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Larry Solomon, Sue Christ, Larry and Donna Britton

**Acolyte:** Karrah Bair

**The Resurrection of Our Lord**

**Sunday, April 20, 2025**

**Festival Service of Holy Communion**

**9:30 A.M.** Festive Music with Easter Choir and Handbells

Beginning at 9:15 am.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office is closed Easter Monday, April 21.**

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING**

**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**

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