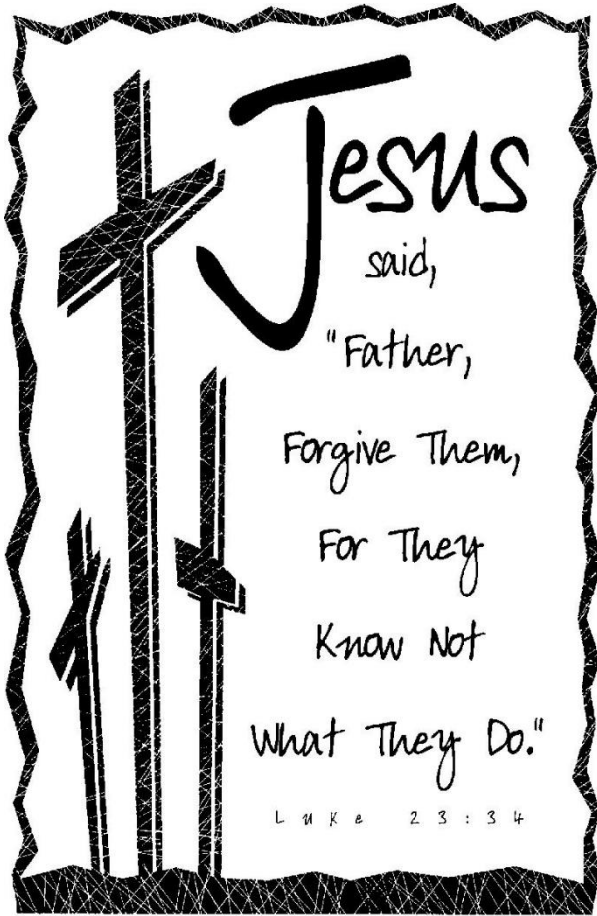


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



Tenebrae
A Service of Darkness

Good Friday
April 3, 2026



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 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.



Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869
Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

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 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
 2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
 4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,

let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
 bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
 but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
 nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.

Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
 make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
 For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
 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.
 how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
 this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
 that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

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, How Hast Thou Offended st. 1&3..... LBW 123

Second candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that man to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for man's a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y

by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while he noth - ing heed - eth, God in - ter - ced - eth.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
 Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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 tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me,
 2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm,
 3 Should thy mer - cy send me sor - row, toil, and woe,

lest by base de - ni - al I de - part from thee.
 or its sor - did trea - sures spread to work me harm,
 or should pain at - tend me on my path be - low,

When thou seest me wa - ver, with a look re - call;
 bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne,
 grant that I may nev - er fail thy hand to see;

nor from fear or fa - vor suf - fer me to fall.
 or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross - crowned Cal - va - ry.
 grant that I may ev - er cast my care on thee.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854
 Music: PENITENCE, Spencer Lane, 1843–1903

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



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
 re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683
 Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885

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, How Hast Thou Offended st. 2..... LBW 123

Fifth candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is divided into two systems of lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in the bass and treble clefs.

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that man to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for man's a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y

by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while he noth - ing heed - eth, God in - ter - ced - eth.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
 Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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

O Come and Mourn..... **Hal Hopson**

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.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Larry Solomon, Rhonda Koch

Lay Assistant: Georgette Copp



The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Festival Service of Holy Communion

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

Beginning at 9:15 am.

10:45 A.M. Easter egg hunt in Shaheen Hall

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office is closed Easter Monday, April 6.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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