

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

#### Gather

around the Gospel to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel** and

Go

with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

# March 29, 2024 Good Friday: Service of Seven Words



**The Triduum** (TRID-oo-um, "three days") refers to the time from worship on Maundy Thursday until the final worship of Easter Day. The "Three Holy Days" of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire church year. It is over these days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter – that we celebrate God's redeeming love in the dying and rising of his Son, Jesus, and still see that love today. The Triduum is a single celebration. Once we have begun the Triduum on Maundy Thursday, we do not "leave" it until Easter Sunday. It is one continuous celebration of dying and rising, with Christ.

#### Service of Seven Words

The Three Holy Days of Christendom continue on Good Friday with a service that focuses our attention on the words Christ spoke while on the cross. In these words we see the depth of our Savior's suffering as well as the depth of his love for us.

#### Rite of Nails and Cross

This year we will use a visual to help us contemplate the love of Jesus on the cross. All who wish to do so will be invited to come forward and place a nail in the cross on the main floor of church. The nail has a red ribbon attached to remind us that it was our sins that caused Jesus to shed his blood. This truth pains us. This truth causes us joy because Jesus' life and death is the sacrifice that paid for the guilt of our sins and the sins of the whole world.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking the Lord's Supper in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

#### Rite of Nails and Cross

**M:** The cross is a confusion for us.

C: There is mystery in the cross.

**M:** The cross is a paradox which we do not understand.

C: There is mystery in the cross.

M: We see the weakness of a dying man on the cross:

C: Yet we acknowledge the power of the living Lord upon the cross.

M: We see the life of Jesus draining out of him on the cross:

C: Yet we acknowledge the reconciliation of the world through it.

M: We see a servant on the cross:

C: Yet we acknowledge him as Lord.

M: There is mystery in the cross:

C: And great joy.

M: The cross is a confusion for us.

C: And life and peace and hope.

M: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless your saving name:

C: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Amen.

If you wish to place a nail in the cross please come up the middle aisle and return to your seat down the outside aisle. There are holes in the cross in which you may place your nail. As you take a nail from the tray the minister will speak the words, "Pierced for you."

# **Hymn** (congregation)

- As the nails the soldiers struck
   Held my Lord upon the tree
   Satan surely ran amuck
   Thinking he had victory
   While the world in darkness fell
   Sorrow that words can not tell
- 2. It was me and my own sin
  That caused Christ my Lord to die
  It was all my thoughts within
  That were focused all on "I"
  All the times I broke His laws
  All my dark and hidden flaws

As The Nails by Ben Ott

- 3. It was love not sin or nails
  That held Christ upon the tree
  Love that for us never fails
  Matchless love that set us free
  Love to us by Spirit given
  Bids our fears away be driven
- 4. When I look upon the cross
  Where the world sees pain and loss
  I see life and hope and love
  From our Father up above
  Who sent Christ His only Son
  To make right what I have done

Stand

Lesson Isaiah 53

M: Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

- C: He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- M: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- C: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.
- M: But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
- C: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- M: He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.
- C: By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.
- M: He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.
- C: Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.
- M: After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.
- C: Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Be seated

# **Prayer for Good Friday**

M: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

# **Hymn** (congregation)

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted CW 127:1,4

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he. 'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord; Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

4 Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost; Christ's 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.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855, alt.

First Word

Luke 23:26-34

### **Congregational Response:**

CW 139:1

Jesus, in your dying woes, Even while your life-blood flows, Craving pardon for your foes: Hear us, holy Jesus!

### Prayer (in unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, touch us with your hands which the sins of the world pierced with the nails, and forgive our ignorance, for Lord, we knew not, indeed we know not what we did in sinning against you.

Teach us to forgive and to bless, O Lord, for your endless mercies' sake.

# **Second Word**

Luke 23:35-43

# **Congregational Response:**

CW 139:2

Jesus, pitying the sighs Of the thief who near you dies, Promising him paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus!

# Prayer (in unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, look on us with your eyes as you looked upon the thief on the cross, that with him we may confess our sins and ask, humbly, 'Lord remember us when you come into your kingdom,' and by your same voice be comforted, for your endless mercies' sake.

Third Word John 19:25-27

# Congregational Response:

CW 139:3

Jesus, loving to the end Her whose heart your sorrows rend, And your dearest human friend: Hear us, holy Jesus!

### Prayer (in unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, fill us with your love as in your pain you did comfort your mother, and provide for her need, and gave her both home and son.

To such love, without compare, without limit, lead us, O Lord, now and forever.

#### **Fourth Word**

Matthew 27:45-49

### **Congregational Response:**

CW 139:4

Jesus, plunged in depths unknown With our evil foe alone, While no light from heav'n is shown: Hear us, holy Jesus!

# Prayer (in unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, fill us with your faith since in your last agony you cried to your Father, 'My God, my God.'

That no suffering, no shadow of doubt may darken our trust in God, nor separate us from your Father and ours, now or ever.

#### Fifth Word

John 19:28,29

# Congregational Response:

CW 139:5

Jesus, in your thirst and pain, While your wounds the lifeblood drain, Thus fulfilling Scripture's plan: Hear us, holy Jesus!

# Prayer (in unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, lead us to see your thirst as you suffered in your humanity, that we might drink from you and never thirst again, but live in your Father's house forever, for your tender mercies' sake.

#### Sixth Word

John 19:30

# Congregational Response:

Hymn 139:6

Jesus, all our ransom paid, All your Father's will obeyed, By your suff'rings perfect made; Hear us, holy Jesus! Prayer (in unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, give us your strength as you resolved to do your Father's work and finish it. That morning and evening we live in hope, knowing that your great work for us is completed, to the glory of your holy name.

Seventh Word Luke 23:44-46

### **Congregational Response:**

Hymn 139:7

Jesus, all your labor vast, All your woe and conflict past, Yielding up your soul at last; Hear us, holy Jesus!

### Prayer (in unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, give us your trust, unquestioning, complete as on the cross, you committed your spirit to your Father. That whatever may happen, we may rest in the same everlasting arms, for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.

### Offering

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

#### Confession of Sins

- M: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we acknowledge the immensity of our guilt. We can offer you nothing to remove these sins. We are unworthy of all your grace. Yet in your grace we have confidence. Through the life and death of Jesus Christ we cry out to you in the full assurance of faith,
- C: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- M: God has had mercy on you, on me, and on the entire world. Jesus' holiness is ours by faith. His death was the punishment for all sin. In Christ, you are a forgiven child of God.
- C: Amen.

#### Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus, Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

**Distribution** Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us.

### **Solo** Sung by Stephanie Beyer

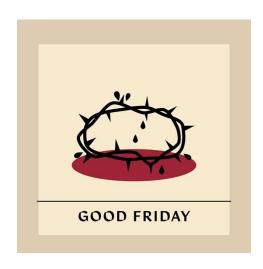
It is finished! It is done! God has sacrificed his Son. Christ has paid the debt of sin that the world might live through him. Come and see God's own Son. It is done!

It is finished! It is done! With the Father we are one. From our sin Christ set us free; now we'll live eternally. Come and see God's own Son. It is done! It Is Done

Yes, for us he died, Jesus Christ the crucified; We will sing his pow'r to save.

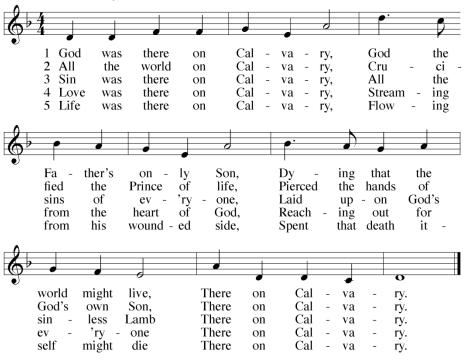
It is finished! It is done! Let us worship God's own Son. He has opened heaven's door; there we'll praise him evermore. Come and see God's own Son. It is done!

By Matthew Manthe. Copyright 2010 NPH



# **Distribution Hymn**

God Was There on Calvary CW 140



6 We were there on Calvary; We were pardoned, saved, set free, Saved to live eternally— Blessed Calvary!

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93. © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: GOD WAS THERE ON CALVARY (77 75) Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93. © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# **Bidding Prayer**

The invitations to prayer may be said by an assisting minister or layperson, and the petitions may be said by the presiding minister. If there is no assisting minister, the presiding minister says both the invitations to prayer and the petitions.

A moment of silence follows each invitation to prayer.

**M:** Let us pray for the whole church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord:

# Silent prayer.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to your Word so that, in every adversity, we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God:

Silent prayer.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**M:** Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism:

### Silent prayer.

**M:** Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live a new and holy life, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority:

Silent prayer.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**M:** Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us:

Silent prayer.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

#### C: Amen.

**M:** Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one, true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent:

### Silent prayer.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

#### C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us:

### Silent prayer.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and life so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Christ our Lord.

#### C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial:

# Silent prayer.

**M:** Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our grief and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation so that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Christ our Lord.

#### C: Amen.

- **M:** Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us:
- 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.

The minister exits the chancel.

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

The service concludes with no blessing or postlude because Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are one continuous service of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

OneLicense.net License #A-725297

The Three Holy Days continues with the Tenebrae worship at 7:00 p.m. with Communion. Easter Vigil Service on Saturday at 8:00 p.m with communion. Easter Festival worship will be at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Communion will be a part of worship at both services.

**Communion Register** Please let us know you participated in the Lord's Supper today by signing the communion register. Sheets are located in the back of church, by the elevator, by the balcony and in the basement.

