

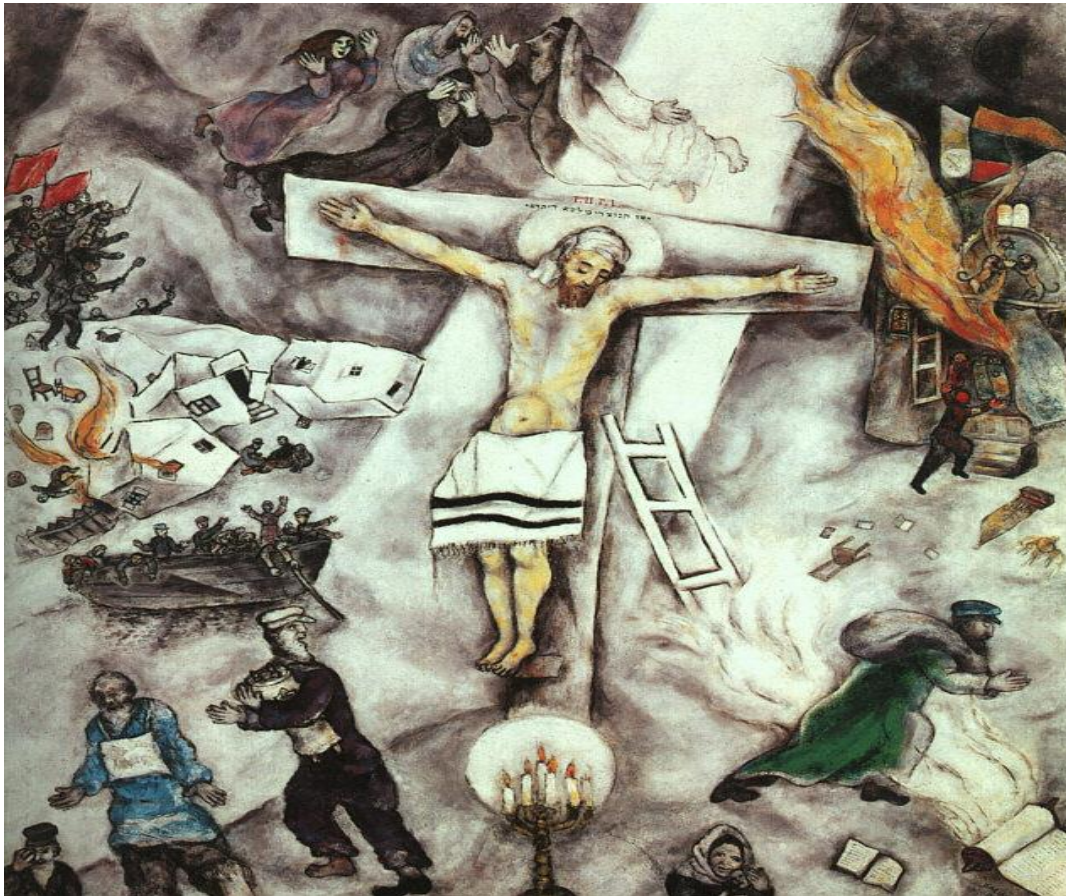
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
GOOD FRIDAY
March 29, 2024

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME **GOD'S FRIDAY**

This Good Friday liturgy is focused on passion according to John.
The writer of this Gospel proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who turns power upside down by reigning from the Cross.

The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers in the middle of a great paradox. First, we stand in the middle of the horror of this Roman style of execution (the Cross). It is clearly a display of power to terrorize the local residents into submission. Roman rule was successful in subjugating people through this technique. We also watch religious leaders compromise their values and align themselves with a violent death. However, the paradox comes when we believe and understand that God dove into the cross to take away its numbing power. Christ's Death then becomes a highway through the Valley of the Shadow of Death where we fear no evil and know God is with us (Psalm 23:4). It becomes an invitation into the Household of God (Psalm 23:6). This worship invites you into that organic reality of God's abiding presence through death into life.



A SERVICE OF SYMBOLS OF JESUS' DYING HOURS

SILENCE

INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN "O Sacred Heart Now Wounded" ELW 351

HOLY WEEK, THREE DAYS

351

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



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;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - ges - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite
Music: German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612;
arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN
7676D

CALL TO WORSHIP

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
He was despised and rejected by others;
A man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity.
As one from whom others hide their faces he was despised,
And we held him of no account.
He was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
Upon him was laid the punishment that made us whole,
and with his stripes we are healed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Ah, Holy Jesus" ELW 349 v. 1-3

Ah, Holy Jesus

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we 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 have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sorrow, 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 we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 27:27-31

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

A pastoral meditation and introduction to the mingling of textures during this Roman Lynching of Jesus.

A NARRATIVE MINGLING WITH ORGANIC SYMBOLS

SYMBOL: CROWN OF THORNS

[A crown of thorns is passed among the worshipers. Any crown must be handled carefully.]

Silent Meditation

Song: "Were You There When They Crowned His Head with Thorns" ELW 353

Were you there when they crowned His head with thorns?

Were you there when they crowned His head with thorns?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crowned His head with thorns?

Scripture Reading: John 19:16-17; Matthew 27:32

¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

SYMBOL: WOOD

[A rough piece of wood is passed among the worshipers.]

Silent Meditation

Song: "Were You There When He Carried His Own Cross?" ELW 353

Were you there when He carried His own Cross?

Were you there when He carried His own Cross?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when He carried His own Cross?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:33-36

³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),

³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

SYMBOL: NAILS

[Worship leader pounds nails into a cross of rough wood, using a heavy mallet.]

Silent Meditation

Song: "Were You There When They Nailed Him to the Tree?" ELW 353

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?

Scripture Reading: John 19:28-30

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

SYMBOL: VINEGAR

[The leader drinks from a chalice on the table. Cups are passed to the gathered community.]

Silent Meditation

Song: "Were You There When They 'Swaged His Thirst with Gall?" ELW 353

Were you there when they 'swaged His thirst with gall?
Were you there when they 'swaged His thirst with gall?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they 'swaged His thirst with gall?

Scripture Reading: John 19:38-40

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

SYMBOL: CLOTH

[A section of cloth is passed among the worshipers.]

Silent Meditation

Song: "Were You There When They Wrapped Him in the Cloths?" ELW 353

Were you there when they wrapped Him in the cloths?
Were you there when they wrapped Him in the cloths?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they wrapped Him in the cloths?

Scripture Reading: John 19:41-42

⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

SYMBOL: TOMB

[A representative carries the cross out of the sanctuary. Congregation follows in procession.]

Song: “Were You There When They Laid Him in the Tomb?” ELW 353

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

[The congregation reenters the sanctuary.]

Silent Meditation

SPECIAL MUSIC: Sung by the Choir “Pieta” By Joseph M. Martin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Worshippers receive a reassurance of God’s forgiveness.]

BENEDICTION

Worshippers leave in silence