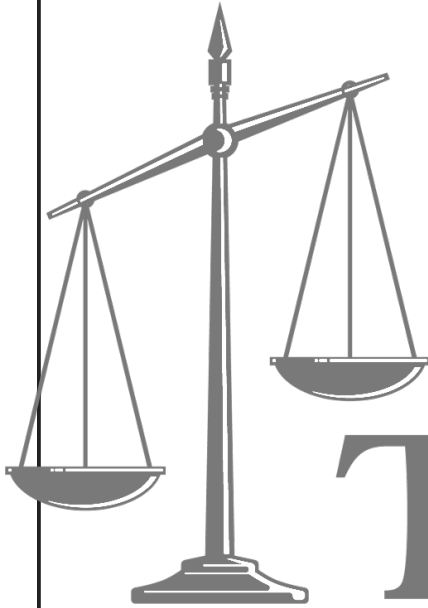


Good Friday



GOD ON TRIAL



Worship Service

Friday, March 29th, 2024 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY



Theme of the day: Darkness descended on the world that day as God draped Creation in the darkness of mourning. For the Light of the world was flickering out. Though guiltless, he was tortured and cursed; though innocent, he died among criminals. Who could ever call this day “good?” Only those who know the truth of the cross: *“Sing my tongue the glorious battle; sing the ending of the fray. Now above the cross, the trophy, sound the loud triumphant lay. Tell how Christ, the world’s Redeemer, as a victim won the day.”*

In keeping with the solemnity of the day, there will be no pre-service or post-service music. Silence for meditation is appreciated. God bless your worship.

WORDS OF ENTRANCE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Minister: Out of the depths I have called to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to the sound of my cry for mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of guilt, O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is pardon, so you are feared.

I wait for the LORD. My soul waits,
and in his word I have put my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen wait for the morning,

more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, wait confidently for the LORD, because
with the LORD there is mercy.

With him there is abundant redemption.

So he himself will redeem Israel from all its guilt. *(Psalm 130)*

The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Now is the judgment of this world.

Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out.

Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you. Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

(John 12:23,31; 17:1,11)

Congregation: Amen.

HYMN: # 419:1-4 “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

♪ **Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
waged in blood on Calvary;
o’er the cross, triumphant trophy,
tell who struggled valiantly;
tell how earth’s Redeemer conquered —
victim gaining victory.**

**Tell how, when at length the fullness
of th’ appointed time was come,
he, the Word, was born of woman,
left for us his Father’s home,
blazed the path of true obedience,
shone as light amidst the gloom.**

**Thus, with thirty years accomplished,
he went forth from Nazareth,
destined, dedicated, willing, did his work and met his death;
like a lamb he humbly yielded on the cross his dying breath.**

(Please stand for the final verse.)

**Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, be for all the noblest tree;
none in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit your equal be,
symbol of the world’s redemption,
for your burden makes us free.**

M: We pray. In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden: purify our hearts through your Holy Spirit so that we may love you as you deserve and be worthy of magnifying your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

M: Jesus commanded us: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence to reflect on the Word of God and to examine ourselves.

HYMN: # 814:1,5 “Just As I Am, without One Plea”

♪ **Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me
and that thou bidd’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

M: Let us confess our sins against God and against our neighbors:

C: God of mercy, we confess that we have been enslaved by sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and action, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. By the love of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and direct us by your Holy Spirit, so that your will may be our joy and we may walk in your ways forever, to the glory of your name. Amen.

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in his great mercy has given us his Son. By his life and death, God cleansed us from all sin. By his resurrection we have eternal life as Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live.” For this reason, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 22

Refrain



Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*
Why are you so far from saying me?

I am a worm and not a man,*
scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;*
they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.*
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Refrain

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks
to the roof of my mouth;*
you lay me in the dust of death.

A band of evil men has encircled me,*
they have pierced my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them*
and cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off;*
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹³Look, my servant will succeed.

He will rise. He will be lifted up. He will be highly exalted.

¹⁴Just as many were appalled at him—

**his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like a man,
and his form was disfigured more than any other person—**

¹⁵so he will sprinkle many nations,

and kings will shut their mouths because of him,

**because they will see something they had never been told before,
and they will understand something they had never heard before.**

53 Who has believed our report,

and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²He grew up before him like a tender shoot

and like a root from dry ground.

He had no attractiveness and no majesty. When we saw him,

nothing about his appearance made us desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by men,

a man who knew grief,

who was well acquainted with suffering.

Like someone whom people cannot bear to look at,

he was despised,

and we thought nothing of him.

⁴Surely he was taking up our weaknesses,

and he was carrying our sufferings.

We thought it was because of God

that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted,

⁵but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced.

He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved.

The punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all have gone astray like sheep.

Each of us has turned to his own way,

but the LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth.

Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers,

he did not open his mouth.

⁸He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice,

and of his generation, who even cared?

So, he was cut off from the land of the living.

He was struck because of the rebellion of my people.

- ⁹They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked,
but he was given a grave with the rich in his death,
because he had done no violence,
and no deceit was in his mouth.
- ¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him
and to allow him to suffer.
Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring.
He will prolong his days,
and the LORD's gracious plan will succeed in his hand.
- ¹¹After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life.
He will provide satisfaction.
Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the
many, for he himself carried their guilt.
- ¹²Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great,
and with the strong he will share plunder,
because he poured out his life to death,
and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners.
He himself carried the sin of many,
and he intercedes for the rebels.

HYMN: # 431 "Oh Perfect Life of Love"

♪ O perfect life of love! All, all is finished now,
all that he left his throne above to do for us below.

No work is left undone of all the Father willed;
his toil, his sorrows, one by one, the Scriptures have fulfilled.

No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;
all forms of human grief and care
have pierced that tender heart.

And on his thorn-crowned head and on his sinless soul
our sins in all their guilt were laid
that he might make us whole.

In perfect love he dies; for me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice, you died to make me free!

In ev'ry time of need, before the judgment throne,
your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
your merits, not my own.

HISTORY OF THE PASSION, JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS

Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means, "The place of a skull." They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. They crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Now it was the third hour when they crucified him.

Pilate also had a notice written and fastened on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews."

Many of the Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that 'this man said, "I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took his tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it. Instead, let's cast lots to see who gets it." This was so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

**They divided my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.**

So the soldiers did these things. Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there.

People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

Those who were crucified with him also insulted him. In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he's the King of Israel, let him come down now from the

cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."

Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise."

HYMN: # 407:1,4 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

♪ When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a tribute far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

HISTORY OF THE PASSION, JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS

Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun was darkened.

At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah!"

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, “I thirst.”

A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink.

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished!”

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” When he had said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Suddenly the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus’ resurrection and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and how he cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last, they were terrified and began to glorify God, saying, “This man really was righteous. Truly this was the Son of God.”

When all the groups of people who had gathered to see this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. All those who knew Jesus, and many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and who had served him, were there, watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Salome, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

Since it was the Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath (because that Sabbath was a particularly important day). They asked Pilate to have the men’s legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who was crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other man.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out. The one who saw it has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. Indeed, these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, “Not one of his bones will be broken.” Again another Scripture says, “They will look at the one they pierced.”

HYMN: # 398 “Not All the Blood of Beasts”

♪ **Not all the blood of beasts on Israel’s altars slain
could give the guilty conscience peace or wash away the stain.**

**But Christ, the heav’nly Lamb, takes all our sins away,
a sacrifice of nobler name and richer blood than they.**

**In faith I place my hand on that dear head divine,
as penitently here I stand and lay on him my sin.**

**My soul looks back to see the burden you did bear
when hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there!**

**Believing, we rejoice to see the curse remove;
we bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
and sing his bleeding love.**

Message: Matthew 27:38-54

³⁸At the same time two criminals were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads, ⁴⁰and saying, “You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, ⁴²“He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he’s the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” ⁴⁴In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him.

⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

⁴⁷When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “This fellow is calling for Elijah.”

⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink.

⁴⁹The rest said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

⁵⁰After Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. ⁵²Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. ⁵³Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus' resurrection and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

HYMN: # 434:1,4,5 "Upon the Cross Extended"

♪ Upon the cross extended, see world, your Lord suspended;
your Savior yields his breath. The Prince of life from heaven
himself has freely given to shame and blows and bitter death.

Your soul in griefs unbounded,
your head with thorns surrounded, you died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring, the crown for me securing,
you healed my wounds and set me free.

Your cross I place before me, its saving pow'r restore me,
sustain me in the test. It will, when life is ending,
be guiding and attending my way to your eternal rest.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HISTORY OF THE PASSION, THE BURIAL OF JESUS

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews. Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the council, was a good and righteous man. He had not agreed with their plan and action. He was looking forward to the kingdom of God. He boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had been dead for a long time. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he granted the body to Joseph. Joseph bought a linen cloth, came, and took Jesus' body away. Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds.

They took Jesus' body and bound it with linen strips along with the spices, in accord with Jewish burial customs.

There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified. And in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. So they laid Jesus there, because it was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was near. Joseph took the body and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. He rolled a large stone over the tomb's entrance and left.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed after Joseph, and they observed the tomb and how Jesus' body was laid there. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus were watching where the body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate and said, "Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead.' And this last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.

Seven Words from the Cross

The crown of thorns candelabra is a beautiful work of ecclesiastical art and a vivid reminder of our Savior's passion.

Each candle represents one of the "Words" spoken by Jesus from the cross. The candles will be extinguished one by one as the seven words are read.

The last candle will not be extinguished, but carried into the sacristy. That candle will be restored to its place. It symbolizes the glorious hope of the resurrection.

I. Luke 23:33,34

When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

*Accompanist plays introduction to the verses
and then the congregation sings*

♪ O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
that such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession,
what dark transgression?

II. Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."

Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise."

♪ Jesus remember me,
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus remember me,
when you come into your kingdom.

III. John 19:25-27

Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

**♪ The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
the sinful child of man may live in gladness;
we forfeited our lives, yet are acquitted
God is committed.**

IV. Matthew 27:45,46

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**♪ What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
the Master pays the debt his servants owe him,
who would not know him.**

V. John 19:28,29

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst."

A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

VI. John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!"

**♪ Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

VII. Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

*The remaining candle, a symbol of our Lord himself,
is carried out of the chancel, symbolizing his burial.*

There is a moment of silence for reflection.

*But the silence is broken with a loud noise — the
‘Strepitus’ — that foreshadows the rending of Christ’s
tomb in triumph on Easter morning.*

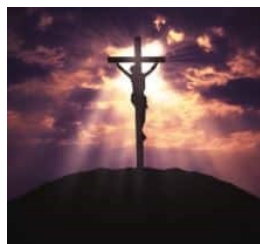
The candle, still burning, is returned to its place.

The minister exits in silence.

*The congregation may remain for prayer and reflection,
before dispersing quietly into the night.*

*Tonight’s account is not
the end of the story.
Come and hear what happened next!*

**EASTER WORSHIP and fellowship:
Easter festival service at 10:00 a.m.
Easter brunch (and egg hunt) after service.**



www.starlutheran.org