

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Friday, March 29, 2024 + 7:15 p.m.



+ + + + + + + + + +

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us together as the people of God

GATHERING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient church held a special service called *Tenebrae* in the last days in Holy Week.

The meaning of the word *Tenebrae* is darkness. The service began in silence and ended in almost total darkness, the lights being gradually extinguished as the service proceeded.

The **Extinguishing of the Candles** is to remind us of the events that led to the darkness which covered the earth on the first Good Friday. According to some authorities, it could signify the flight of the disciples.

In our service, one candle remains **burning** to symbolize the fact that Christ did not remain in the grave but rose again. The forces of hell could not prevail against the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

Because of the dramatic nature of this service and the mood that it creates, no offering will be taken during the service. Offering plates will be located at the exits should you desire to make an offering as you leave.

This is the most solemn of worship services: Quiet and meditation should be maintained throughout.

All those who are worshipping with us are requested, at the end of this service, to leave quietly in order to preserve the spirit of the worship.



Reflection at the Foot of the Cross

- ▣ Jesus says: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed on you the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- ▣ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**
- ▣ O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you. Answer me. I gave you my peace, which the world cannot give, but you draw the sword to strike in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- ▣ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**
- ▣ O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you. Answer me. I washed your feet as a sign of my love and offered you my body and blood, but you scatter, you deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- ▣ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**





- Ⓐ O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you. Answer me. I prayed that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide, casting lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- ☒ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**
- Ⓟ O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you. Answer me. I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- ☒ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**
- Ⓐ O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you. Answer me. I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me. I was naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- ☒ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**



1 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and glo - ri - ous,
 2 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and pow - er - ful,
 3 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and beau - ti - ful,
 4 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and on - ly wise,
 5 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and liv - ing one,



glo - ry most sub - lime, you come as one a - mong us
 pow - er with - out peer, you bend to us in weak - ness;
 beau - ty un - sur - passed, you are de - spised, re - ject - ed;
 wis - dom of great price, you choose the way of fol - ly:
 life that nev - er ends, you show your love by dy - ing,



in - to hu - man time, and we be - hold your glo - ry.
 emp - tied, you draw near, and we be - hold your pow - er.
 scorned, you hold us fast, and we be - hold your beau - ty.
 God the cru - ci - fied, and we be - hold your wis - dom.
 dy - ing for your friends, and we be - hold you liv - ing.

Prayer

- A** Let us pray.
- C** Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

A Word of Forgiveness

Luke 23:34

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

The Reading

Jack Vos

- Ⓟ God did not spare Christ Jesus;
- Ⓣ But delivered Jesus for us all.

The Hymn

My Song Is Love Unknown

LBW 94



- 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.

A Word of Promise

Luke 23:42 - 43

The thief said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Reading

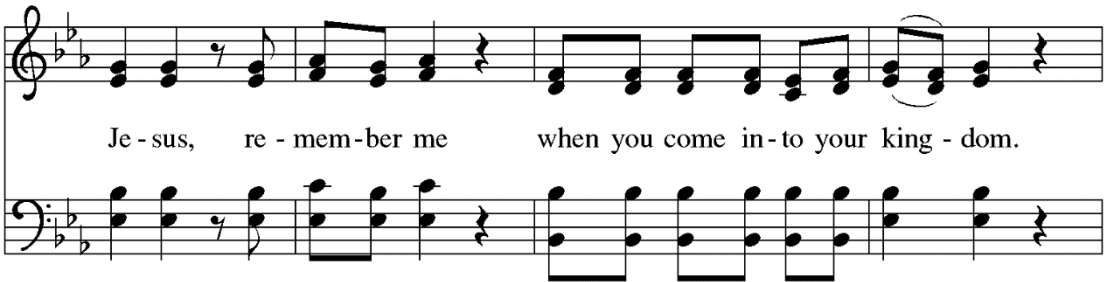
Carla Wilson -Neil

- ☐ God did not spare Christ Jesus;
- ☑ **But delivered Jesus for us all.**

The Hymn

Jesus, Remember Me

ELW 616



A Word of Care

John 19:26-27

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

The Reading

Doug Neeb

- ☐ God did not spare Christ Jesus;
- ☑ **But delivered Jesus for us all.**

A Word of being Forsaken

Matthew 27:46

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The Reading

Joe Longcor

- ☐ God did not spare Christ Jesus;
- ☑ **But delivered Jesus for us all.**

The Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus

ELW 349



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.

A Word of Thirst

John 19:28

Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

The Reading

Cindy Olson

- Ⓟ God did not spare Christ Jesus;
- Ⓞ **But delivered Jesus for us all.**

A Word of Completion

John 19:30

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

The Reading

Vickey Argo

- Ⓟ God did not spare Christ Jesus;
- Ⓞ **But delivered Jesus for us all.**

A Word of Release

Luke 23:46

Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."
Having said this, he breathed his last.

The Reading

Mike Kemper

- Ⓟ God did not spare Christ Jesus;
- Ⓞ **But delivered Jesus for us all.**

Lord's Prayer

- Ⓐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- ☒ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The assembly sits or kneels in prayer

The PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- Ⓐ On this holy night, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy.

A brief silence.

- Ⓐ By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of your church. Where there is division, grant healing. Where there is fracture, grant unity. Where there is indifference, grant passion. Lord, in your mercy,

☒ **Hear our prayer.**

- Ⓐ By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of the creation. Put an end to destruction and renew our commitment to the fullness of life you intend for every living thing. Lord, in your mercy,

☒ **Hear our prayer.**

- Ⓐ By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of the human family. Bring understanding and a spirit of cooperation to nations and communities in conflict. Dissolve distrust into understanding and transform disregard into profound care for one another. Lord, in your mercy,

☒ **Hear our prayer.**

- Ⓐ By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Feed those who hunger, give shelter to those without a home, heal the sick, and grant rest to the dying. Lord, in your mercy,

☒ **Hear our prayer.**

- A** By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of this community. Help us seek not so much to be served, but to serve; not to be loved, but to love; not to be forgiven, but to forgive, for the sake of the gospel.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness within us. Cast out all fear of separation from you, and join us to the communion of saints who celebrate at your eternal banquet table. Lord, in your mercy,

G **Hear our prayer.**

- P** Into the arms of your tender embrace, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who, on the cross, opened his arms to all: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G **Amen.**

A Show us your mercy, O God,
G **and grant us your salvation.**

P Give us the joy of your saving help again,
G **and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

A Give peace in all the world;
G **for only in you can we live in safety.**

P Keep the nations under your care,
G **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

A Let your way be known upon earth;
G **your saving health among all nations.**

P Let not the needy be forgotten,
G **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

A Create in me a clean heart, O Lord,
G and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.

P Lord, hear my prayer,
G and let my cry come before you.

A The Lord be with you.
G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour you bore our sins in your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness.

Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and, through your grace, an eternal glory in the life to come; where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever.

G Amen.

Piano solo

Cindy Olson

The Benediction and Sending

A Let us bless the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

P Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.

G Amen.

Grace Lutheran Church

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Website: www.grace-hastings.org
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA
Hastings, MI
Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 29, 2024 – Good Friday

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who reveals God's presence in our lives. It is by God's grace that we are made a child of God, who is blessed by God's rich grace, mercy, and peace.

We welcome Pastor Mike Kemper as preacher and presider today. We are blessed with many pastors that are filling in as Pastor Scheck is taking time away seeking God's peace, healing, and transformation. We are thankful for God's Holy Spirit who sustains Grace Lutheran Church during this time of refreshment, renewal, and trust in God's guidance during this time.

First Aid and CPR Training Saturday, April 27 from 12:30 until 7:00 there will be a full course of adult, child and infant CPR, AED, and First Aid training for \$90. On Monday, April 29 from 2:30 until 5:30 there will be a CPR renewal/challenge class for \$60. On Sunday, April 28 from 3:15 until 5:00 there will be a FREE basic CPR and AED awareness class. For more information on any of these opportunities, please see the flyer in the Gathering Area, or contact Kim Domke at 269.908.0024 or kdomke08@gmail.com.

▲ By the cross of Christ encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized especially *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Walter Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Easton Greenfield, Lorraine Handsbarger, Diane Hawkins, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Dennis Loewenstein, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corinna Palmer, Rick Palmer, Sharon Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, The Family of Darlene Umbarger, Al Throop, Russ Trongo, and Brenda Watson.* Lord in your mercy,

☑ **Hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Readers – Jack Vos, Carla Wilson-Neil, Doug Neeb, Joe Longcor, Cindy Olson, Vickey Argo, and Mike Kemper

Pastor – Mike Kemper

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 50	Views: 324
Weekly Giving: \$1,758.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Grace Projects Goal	\$25,252.00
Received To Date	- <u>\$535.00</u>
Total Needed	\$24,717.00
Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5.00	

Real Power

In the middle of Jesus' trial, Pilate is afraid. It's the opposite of what one might expect. After all, isn't he the one with the real power in this encounter? Pilate himself seems to think so. At one point in Jesus' trial, Pilate puts it plainly: "Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" By all appearances, he is the most powerful person in the story, but ironically, he is also very afraid.

The ironies of Good Friday extend far beyond the gospel, though. The history of Good Friday is hardly "good" in any usual sense of the word. On this day, one might expect humble prayer and quiet self-examination from those of us who follow Jesus. Yet for centuries, all too often this day has been marked by violence and bloodshed carried out by Christians against Jews. In our history as Christ's church, the power we have wielded over others has too often led to tragedy.

By all appearances, Good Friday is not "good" at all. And yet the good news of the cross is that God regularly shows up where we least expect. As Jesus' disciples, we stake our faith on the claim that the world is healed and redeemed by Christ's death on a cross. This is why the framing of this day as "good" persists—because in spite of all our failures and the harm we've caused, God remains faithful and God's love steadfast.

Real power for followers of Jesus isn't power over others; real power comes as a gift from God shared with others. Real power is known and nurtured in a community of love in which we together learn how to offer ourselves to one another. There's irony in this truth, and also the grace of God.

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Easter Services

Sonrise Worship Service

March 31 – 8:00 a.m.

Easter Worship Service

March 31 – 10:45 a.m.