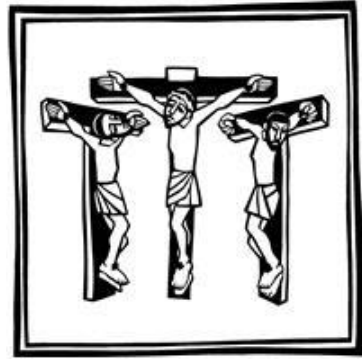


Friday, April 3, 2026
Good Friday
Sundays and Seasons 2026



INTRODUCTION

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

All gather in silence. The assembly stands when the ministers stand.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up
and shall be very high.
¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.
^{53:1} Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
² For he grew up before him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,



nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ 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.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with affliction.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,



and he shall bear their iniquities.
¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out himself to death
and was numbered with the transgressors,
yet he bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the transgressors.



The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 22:1-7,14-15, 18-19, 22, 27-31

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
² **My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**
³ Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
⁴ **Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.**
⁵ They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶ **But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
⁷ All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

¹⁴ **I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**
¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

¹⁸ **They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.**
¹⁹ But you, O Lord, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.
²² **I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**



²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹ Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰ **Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹ They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:16-25

[After the Holy Spirit says,] ¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,"

¹⁷ and he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the
blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is,
through his flesh), ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach
with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil
conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our
hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to
provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of
some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

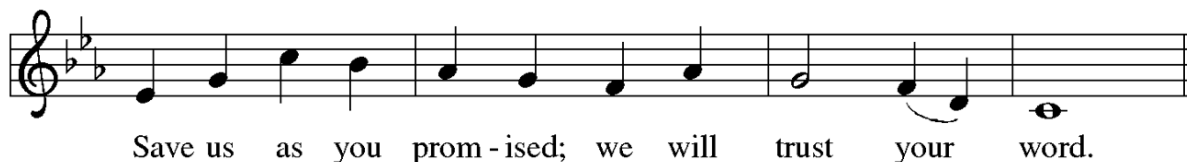
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – LENTEN

ELW Setting # 1 S 103

Soloist sings first time through followed by Congregation.



THE PASSION OF OUR LORD: John 18:1—19:42

We now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection from the Gospel of St. John. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A dramatic Reading of the Gospel is presented.

The Passion of our Lord according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

REFLECTION

Pastor Steven Kuhl

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW # 803 “When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

BIDDING PRAYER

The assembly kneels or sits. The assisting minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). Silence for prayer follows each bid. The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence.

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world, for its unity, and its service in the world.

Silent prayer.



Almighty and eternal God,
you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.
By your Holy Spirit you call, gather and enlighten your church
throughout the world and gather it as one wherever
the gifts of Word and Sacrament are shared.
Help your beloved Church to persevere in faith, proclaim your name,
and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for all leaders in the Church and for the faithful as they serve
through their daily vocations...

For Yehiel Curry, our Presiding Bishop, and for Paul, our Bishop and
all the people of the Greater Milwaukee Synod...

For Leo XIV, Bishop of Rome; For Bartholomew I, Patriarch of
Constantinople, and for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury...

For Sean, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in America; Matthew, Bishop of the
Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin, and Jeffrey, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Milwaukee ...

For, Jerry Lillay, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Teresa Snorton, Chair of
the National Council of Churches, and Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin
Council of Churches...

For all Christians in this community...
Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors,
deacons, lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of
us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.
Silent prayer.



Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church.
Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism.
Give them new birth as your children,
and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.
Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity.
Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son.
Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith,
and keep us united in the fellowship of love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.
Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God,
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses.
Hear our prayers that the people you first called and elected as your own
may receive the fulfillment of the covenant promise to Abraham with those
of us who have entered into it later.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.
Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humankind in your image, but now it calls out to you
under different names and with different images. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, for you
want no one to do violence in your name. Increase and bless interreligious dialogue. Grant that
it may be a genuine search for the truth concerning you, O God, and the wellbeing of all people.
As we have come to know you in Christ, help us to share what we know openly and honestly
with gentleness, respect, and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.
Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity
so that all may long to know you and find peace in you.

Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace
in the world and in the lives of Christians,
and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.
Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe.
Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

For Donald Trump, the President of the United States;
For Anthony Evers, our governor
For the Congress and the Supreme Court
For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations
For all who serve the common good.
Silent prayer.



Almighty and eternal God,
you are the champion of the poor and oppressed.
In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority,
so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom,
and a share in the goodness of your creation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.
Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary
and new courage to those who have lost heart.
Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers,
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,
and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease.
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble,
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**Our Father, who art in heaven 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.**

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.

Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

The dialogue is said a second time at the midpoint of the procession.

Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

The dialogue is said a third time at the end of the procession.

Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

ADORATION OF THE CROSS

Silence for meditation is observed, followed by the adoration hymn.

HYMN: ELW # 349 “Ah, Holy Jesus”

Silence for meditation is again observed, followed by the hymn

HYMN: ELW # 353 “Were you There” Verses 1, 2, & 5



VENERATION OF THE CROSS

The assembly is seated.

During this time, worshipers may come forward to the large cross to make a sign of reverence. Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.

Background music only during this time will be ELW # 351 "O Sacred Head Now Wounded".

SOLEMN REPROACHES

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom,
and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

First candle is extinguished.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert,
feeding you with manna on the way;

I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but 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 led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire,
but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;

I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Second candle is extinguished.



O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit;
I made you branches of the vine and never left your side,
but 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 poured out saving water from the rock,
but you gave me vinegar to drink;
I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Third candle is extinguished.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;
I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life,
but 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 struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed;
I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Fourth candle is extinguished.



O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land,
but you opened my side with a spear;
I washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but 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 lifted you up to the heights,
but you lifted me high on a cross;
I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

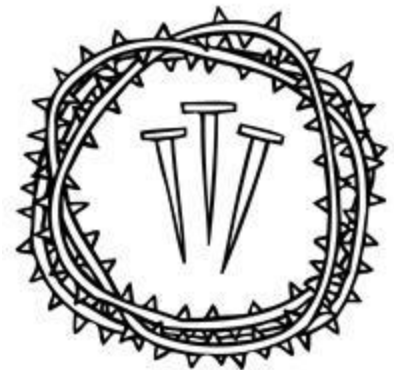
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Fifth candle is extinguished.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I grafted you into my people 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 in the least of your brothers and sisters,
but I was hungry and you gave me no food,
thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you did not welcome me,
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.**

Sixth candle is extinguished.

Brief silence is observed, then the following acclamation.



We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Let us pray... Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. People: **Amen.**

Seventh candle is extinguished.

ALL DEPART IN SILENCE.

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Today's Lay Leaders

Lectors: Judy Goodwin, Kathy Wakefield, Sandy Ringwall and Linda Kolar-Wood

Ushers: Judy Goodwin and Deanna Posig

Communion Assistant: Jeanette Nowakowski

Altar Guild: Deanna Posig

Altar Guilds on Wednesday Evenings: Joyce Weinert and Joann Voegeli

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