

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 3, 2026



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CHURCH WEBSITE

WIFI Bethel Guest

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password **Lutheran**

ENTER TO WORSHIP – LEAVE TO SERVE

Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness “Tenebrae”

**Congregation Stands*

Congregation responses are in bold

Prelude: “Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted” by Leavitt

Gathering

All gather in silence. The congregation stands when the minster stands

***Prayer of the Day** 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 congregation 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.

Gathering Hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” ELW #803

The Passion According to St. John

John 18:1-11

First candle may be extinguished

Hymn: “Go to Dark Gethsemane” ELW #347

John 18:12-27

Second candle may be extinguished

Hymn: “O sacred head, now wounded” stanzas 1-2 ELW #351

John 18:28-40

Third candle may be extinguished

Hymn “O sacred head, now wounded” stanzas 3-4 ELW #351

John 19:1-7

Fourth candle may be extinguished

Hymn "Ah, holy Jesus," stanzas 1-2

ELW #349

John 19:8-16a

Fifth candle may be extinguished

Hymn "Ah, holy Jesus, stanzas 3-5

ELW #349

John 19:16b-22

Sixth candle may be extinguished

Hymn "Calvary" stanzas 1-2 ELW #354

Sung by Kara Thurston

John 19:23-30

Seventh candle may be extinguished

Hymn "Calvary" stanzas 3-4 ELW #354

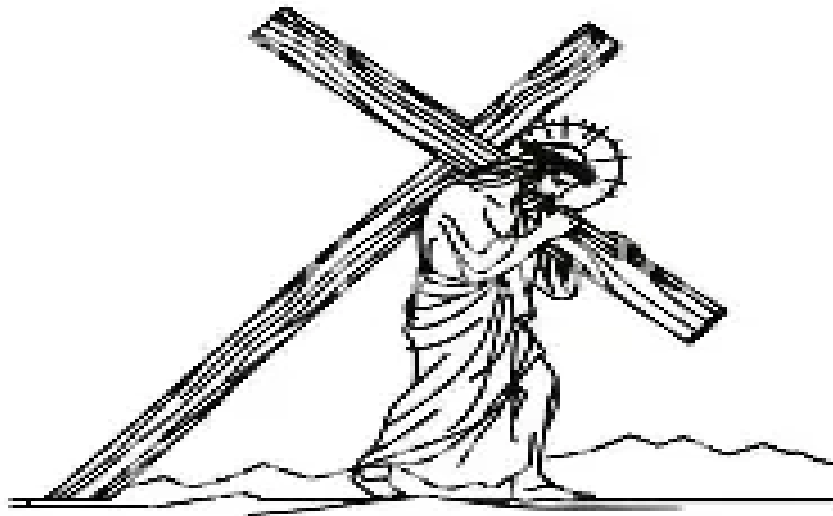
Sung by Kara Thurston

John 19:31-42

Eighth candle may be extinguished

Hymn "Were you There"

ELW #353



Meditation

Dr. Peggy Terhune

Bidding Prayer

**The congregation kneels or sits as they are able.
Silence for prayer follows each bid.**

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it 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 for Bishop Curry and Bishop Emily Hartner our bishops, for Dr. Peggy Terhune, our pastor, for Todd Corriher, Butch Williams, Mike Raney, Todd Smith, Todd Lingle, Monica Raney, Judy Hoffman, Mike Spry, and Aaron Thurston our council, and for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and 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 called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

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, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son.

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.

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, 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 congregation. The congregation stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.

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

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The congregation may be seated.

During this time, worshipers may come 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.

“He Never Said a Mumblin’ Word”

by Page

After a brief silence, the minister continues.

We adore you, O Christ,^l and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Sending Hymn

”What Wondrous Love is This”

ELW #666

All depart in silence.

Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness

Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness”) was the name given to the medieval predawn morning prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. As the light began to dawn, the candles used for reading were gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, the rising sun provided the necessary light for reading and singing.

In the service presented here, the extinguishing of candles has been placed within the reading of the Passion according to John, the ancient gospel narrative for the day. With this form, candles are used. Following each section, one candle is extinguished.

The Johannine passion account is appointed for Good Friday because the synoptic passion accounts are read in successive years on the Sunday of the Passion. John’s passion account sees Jesus’ death as his glorification. Rather than “mourning” the dying or dead Jesus on Good Friday, the cross is acclaimed as the sign of the world’s redemption. The procession of the cross and adoration of the crucified Christ become the primary symbolic action of this day. We offer honor and reverence to the one who, lifted up from the earth, draws all people to himself. This service does not end in darkness and sadness, as if the assembly were reenacting the death of Christ. Rather, the liturgy ends with Christ exalted on the cross, an image from John’s gospel.

The procession of the cross has an important connection to the procession of the paschal candle in the Easter Vigil. More importantly, all three days celebrate the mystery of Jesus’ dying and rising. We do not wait until Easter Sunday to see what will happen. Already on Good Friday, the church celebrates the Lord’s death and resurrection as the central event of our salvation.

