



**Good Friday**  
**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**  
Olney, Maryland  
April 3, 2026 | 7:00 PM

## ***Surely he has borne our griefs***

**Good Friday** marks the second day of the Holy Triduum (from the Latin term for “three days”), the three-day celebration of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection.

**Good Friday** is the Church’s commemoration of Jesus’ death on the cross. So, then, what’s good about Good Friday? What could possibly be good about a day when an innocent man—the best man who ever lived, in fact—was tortured to death in a gross miscarriage of justice? Well, as a matter of etymology, good sometimes means “holy” in older English usage, so Good Friday is actually an old-fashioned way of saying Holy Friday. And the Friday of Jesus’ death was certainly holy—set apart for the Lord’s purposes. But, in spite of its horror—in fact, by and through its horror—this Friday was also, in the fullest sense, good. Because it was for our good, and out of the goodness of his own heart, and according to the good and gracious will of God, that Jesus died on the cross. On the cross, the Son of God took upon himself the depth of the human predicament, the full horror of our separation from God, and abolished it in His own body. So His suffering becomes our healing, His death becomes our life, His defeat becomes our victory. And the horror of this Friday becomes holy; it becomes good. Thus, we approach this day not with gloom and despair, but with a hush-inducing awe at the magnitude of Christ’s love. Because we already know the end of the story. And Good Friday is not the end of the story....

**Tenebrae** (which means “darkness”) is a prayer service that originated among Christian monks in the Middle Ages. As the congregation remembers Christ’s sacrifice through psalms, readings, hymns, and prayers, the lights of the church are gradually extinguished, recalling the darkness that covered the land on the afternoon of Jesus’ death. At the end of the service, you may remain for prayer or leave in silence. Offerings may be left at the door.

**Please** turn off all electronic devices during our worship together, so that we can give glory to God without distraction.

*The congregation and pastor enter in silence.*

*Stand*

Opening Versicles

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C and my mouth will declare Your praise.**  
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C make haste to help me, O Lord.**  
**Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

*Sit*

Psalm

*Psalm 31:5–16*

- <sup>5</sup>Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
- <sup>6</sup>**I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,  
but I trust in the LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup>I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,  
because you have seen my affliction;  
you have known the distress of my soul,
- <sup>8</sup>**and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;  
you have set my feet in a broad place.**
- <sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye is wasted from grief;  
my soul and my body also.
- <sup>10</sup>**For my life is spent with sorrow,  
and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my iniquity,  
and my bones waste away.**
- <sup>11</sup>Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,  
especially to my neighbors,  
and an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**I have been forgotten like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.**
- <sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many—  
terror on every side!—  
as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.
- <sup>14</sup>**But I trust in you, O LORD;  
I say, “You are my God.”**

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!  
<sup>16</sup>**Make your face shine on your servant;**  
**save me in your steadfast love!**

*The first candle is extinguished.*

Hymn

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

LSB 708



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from  
 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and



me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer - me. Earth  
 all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,



has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were  
 grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy



void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my  
 lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.  
 doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious  
 Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
 cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and





1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The  
2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The

guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the  
Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther

sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes  
chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go

pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -  
forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren

out com-plaint, That spot-less life to of - fer, He bears the  
from their dread Of guilt and con-dem-na - tion. The wrath and

stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and  
stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion

yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."  
they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487-1553  
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<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**<sup>8</sup>You have said, "Seek my face."  
My heart says to you,  
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."**

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me.  
Turn not your servant away in anger,  
O you who have been my help.  
Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!

**<sup>10</sup>For my father and my mother have forsaken me,  
but the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.

**<sup>12</sup>Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.**

<sup>13</sup>I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup>**Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!**

*The third candle is extinguished.*

Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB 427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67 Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**P** The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*John 19:1–16a*

<sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate

said to them, "Behold the man!" <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." <sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

<sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." <sup>13</sup>So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" <sup>15</sup>They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." <sup>16</sup>So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

*A fourth candle is extinguished.*



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
 5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;  
 7 O won - drous love, whose depth no heart hath sound - ed,



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
 It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;  
 The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;  
 That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves sur - round - ed!



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
 Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -  
 Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -  
 All world - ly plea - sures, heed - less, I was



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?  
 her - it, This I do mer - it.  
 quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.  
 try - ing While Thou wert dy - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

### John 19:16b–42

So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup>and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

<sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, <sup>24</sup>so they

said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things, <sup>25</sup>but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup>So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup>He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” <sup>37</sup>And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

<sup>38</sup>After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. <sup>40</sup>So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup>So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

*A fifth candle is extinguished.*



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll

caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will  
 sing His love for me, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

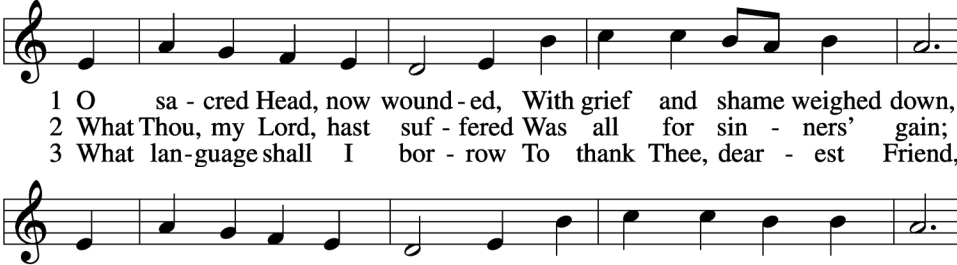
Sermon: *Death of the Firstborn*

Pastor Timothy Boerger

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LSB 449



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,  
 2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;  
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,

Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
 Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.  
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;  
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
 Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002360 Tune: Public domain

*A sixth candle is extinguished.*

*Stand*

Kyrie

**P** Lord, have mercy.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Christ, have mercy.

**C** **Christ, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, have mercy.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

Concluding Collect

**P** Let us pray.  
Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

Hymn

Were You There

LSB 456



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you  
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you  
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...  
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...  
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.  
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.  
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text and tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

*The final candle is carried out.*

*Silence*

*A noise.*

*The candle is returned.*

*The congregation leaves in silence.*

**XIV Jesus is laid in the tomb**

Here at the centre everything is still,  
Before the stir and movement of our grief  
Which bears its pain with rhythm, ritual,  
Beautiful useless gestures of relief.  
So they anoint the skin that cannot feel  
Soothing his ruined flesh with tender care,  
Kissing the wounds they know they cannot heal,  
With incense scenting only empty air.  
He blesses every love that weeps and grieves,  
And makes our grief the pangs of a new birth.  
The love that's poured in silence at old graves  
Renewing flowers, tending the bare earth,  
Is never lost. In him all love is found  
And sown with him, a seed in the rich ground.

--Malcolm Guite (*Sounding the Seasons*)

## **Easter Service & Fellowship**

**Sunday, April 5, 2026**

Food & Fellowship - 9:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt - 9:30 AM

Special Easter Pre-Service Music – 10:00 AM

Easter Service 10:30 AM

**Give to LCGS through PayPal:**



### **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

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