

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Good Friday ~ Friday April 3, 2026

On Maundy Thursday, we entered the Triduum, the final three days of Holy Week. We begin Good Friday's worship service in silence, as it is a continuation of Maundy Thursday's service.

*On this Good Friday, we will reflect on the 7 Last Words of Jesus, using the Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John. The 7 Last Words, or 7 Last Sayings, are designated as **"such"** throughout the bulletin. As we close this service, we will depart in silence as we anticipate the culmination of the Triduum at Easter Vigil.*

GATHERING

All gather in silence.

The assembly stands when the ministers stand.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty God,

C: 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.

Assembly invited to be seated.

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"

A: A reading from Luke, Chapter 23.

A: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Hymn:

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

Screen or ELW #349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we 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 have 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 our 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 we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

P: A reading from Luke, Chapter 23

P: One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Hymn: "Jesus, Remember Me" Screen or ELW #616

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

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community Text © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under One License #A-730141

"Woman, here is your son. Here is your mother"

A: A reading from John, Chapter 19

A: Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 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." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Hymn: "Our Father, by Whose Name" Screen or ELW #640



1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known,
2 O Christ, your - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty



in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.
with heart still un - de - filed to full a - dult - hood come:
and teach us how to find the love from self set free;



Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as
our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place that they may all be -
in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by



sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple dwell.
hold your face and, know - ing you, may grow in grace.
this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885

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"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

P: A reading from Matthew, Chapter 27.

P: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

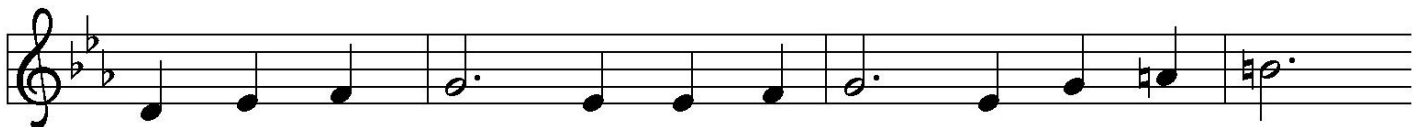
Hymn: "In Deepest Night" Screen or ELW #699



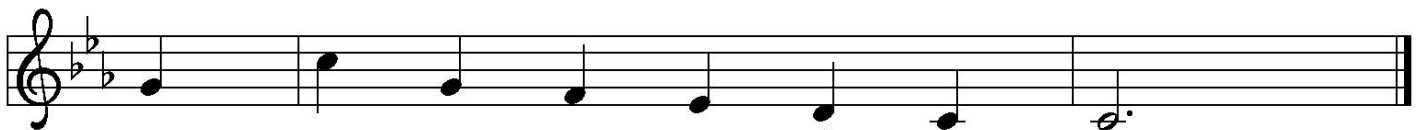
1 In deep - est night, in dark - est days, when harps are
2 When friend was lost, when love de - ceived, dear Je - sus
3 When through the wa - ters winds our path, a - round us



hung, no songs we raise, when si - lence must
wept, God was be - reaved; so with us in
pain, a - round us death: deep calls to deep,



suf - fice as praise, yet sound - ing in us qui - et - ly
our grief God grieves, and round a - bout us mourn - ful - ly
a sav - ing breath, and found be - side us faith - ful - ly



there is the song of God.
there are the tears of God.
there is the love of God.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: DEEP BLUE, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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"I am thirsty"

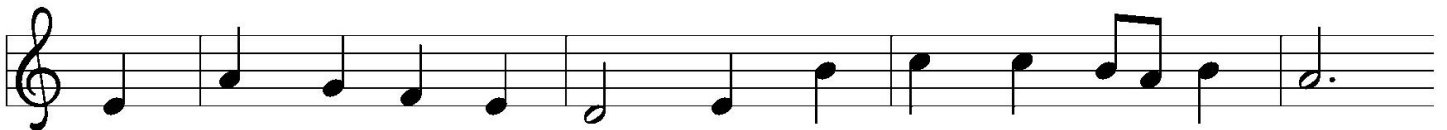
A: A reading from John, Chapter 19.

A: After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Screen or ELW #351



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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"It is finished"

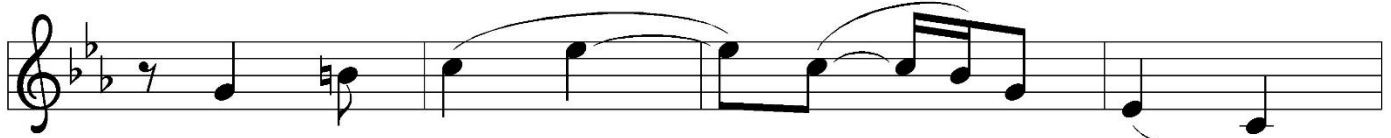
P: A reading from John, Chapter 19.

P: When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

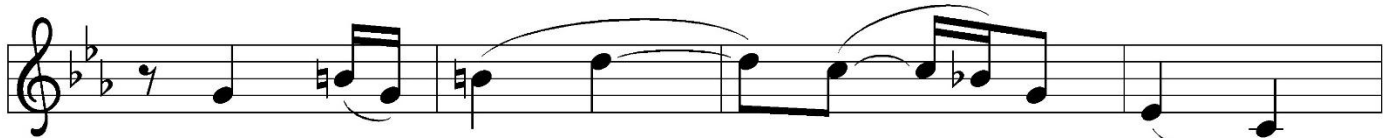
Hymn:

"Calvary"

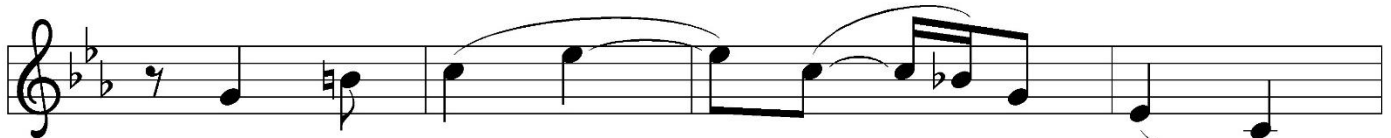
Screen or ELW #354



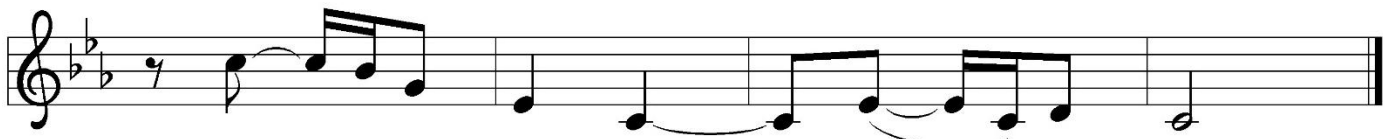
Refrain Cal - va - ry, Cal - va - ry,
1 Ev - 'ry time I think a-bout Je - sus,
2 Sin - ner, do you love my Je - sus?
3 Don't you hear him say, "It is fin - ished!"
4 Je - sus fur - nished my sal - va - tion,



Cal - va - ry, Cal - va - ry,
ev - 'ry time I think a-bout Je - sus,
Sin - ner, do you love my Je - sus?
Don't you hear him say, "It is fin - ished!"
Je - sus fur - nished my sal - va - tion,



Cal - va - ry, Cal - va - ry,
ev - 'ry time I think a-bout Je - sus;
Sin - ner, do you love my Je - sus?
Don't you hear him say, "It is fin - ished!"
Je - sus fur - nished my sal - va - tion;



sure - ly he died on Cal - va - ry.
sure - ly he died on Cal - va - ry. *Refrain*
Sure - ly he died on Cal - va - ry. *Refrain*
Sure - ly he died on Cal - va - ry. *Refrain*
sure - ly he died on Cal - va - ry. *Refrain*

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"

A: A reading from Luke, Chapter 23.

A: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

Homily

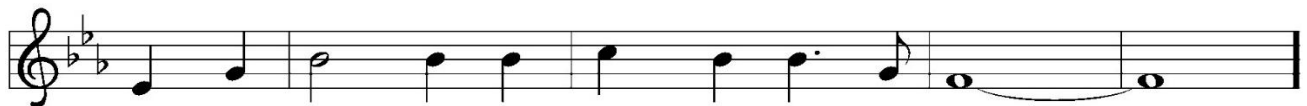
Hymn:

"Were You There"

Screen or ELW #353



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Refrain



Oh, 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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual

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The Light of Christ Departs

*The light from all remaining candles in the sanctuary are extinguished.
For a little while, even the light symbolizing Christ is carried out of the sanctuary. The darkness
of the room symbolizes the darkness of Christ's three days in the tomb.
Assembly invited to kneel or be seated.*

Bidding Prayers

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.*

A: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.
Silent prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for Yehiel Curry and Stacie Fidler, our bishops, for Anthony and Riley Windau, our pastors, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

P: 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.
C: Amen.

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

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.

In recognition of the darkness of Good Friday, the assembly is asked to depart in silence. You may stay as long as you wish to pray and reflect.

The Christ Candle will be returned to the sanctuary during the Easter Vigil, pointing towards the hope we have in Christ's resurrection.

Holy Week Continues:

April 4 - Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM @ St. Paul

April 5 - Easter Sunday at 9:00 AM @ Immanuel

April 5 - Easter Sunday at 11:00 AM @ St. Paul