

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Even in darkness,
we are not alone.

APRIL 3, 2026

UNBOUND
Longing for Wholeness



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY

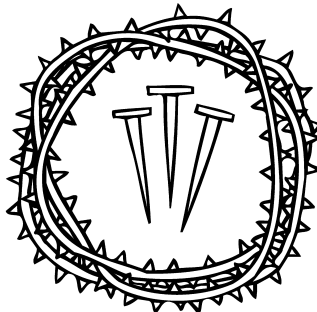
Even the name of the day seems off, Good Friday. What is good about this day? A day when an innocent man is killed. A day when an innocent man was betrayed by a follower and abandoned by his friends. A day when we nail to a tree the very source of life. What is good about today?

As morbid as it seems to celebrate this day, can we fully appreciate the victory of Easter without exposing ourselves to the darkness of this day, a darkness that we are all a part of? This service is anything but fun. This service is filled with guilt, judgment and darkness, but the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome the light. This divine, perfect light shines into our darkness.

Throughout this service we hear the final words of Jesus and the words of those who would stop at nothing to make sure that he did not live to see another day. As the story unfolds candles are extinguished, reminding us of the darkness that overshadowed the sun that day. As the final candle is extinguished we remember the anguish of Christ's death, and the slamming of the Bible symbolizes the stone that was rolled in front of the tomb. This death seems so final. Is this the end?

This year we are confronted with our own association to Jesus' death. Long before he was betrayed, arrested, and executed Jesus reminded the crowd that no one was perfect and that everyone had sinned. In the iconic Sermon on the Mount, after the beatitudes, Jesus takes the law and expands it so that everyone is condemned by it. Jesus says its not just about murder but how we feel about others, how we treat them, and what we say about them that reveals our brokenness. Maybe I haven't killed someone but I have certainly talked about them behind their back, thought horrible things about them, and insulted them. I am guilty. Maybe I haven't been unfaithful but I have objectified people. I have seen people as things instead of as my family in Christ. I am guilty. Jesus doesn't do this in hopes of complete devastation, but that everyone would understand their need for forgiveness. If there were those in the crowd who thought they were without sin, Jesus was talking to them. If there were those in the crowd who didn't think they needed to be forgiven, this was for them. And this is for us. We live in a world that labels one offense more serious than the other, but in God's eyes any and all brokenness needs forgiveness. So how does Jesus' sermon convict us? Maybe my actions haven't been as offensive as Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas, but I am not without sin. I, too, am guilty.

What is good about Good Friday? It is good for us because today we see how much God loves us.



THE GATHERING

WELCOME

(Sanctuary Doors are Closed, Congregation Gathers In Front of Closed Doors.)

- P: Welcome believers and faithful as we bare witness to the rite of Good Friday.
A: Life and death stand side by side as we enter Good Friday. In the Gospels, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death.
P: 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 the solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed the tree of life.

(Congregation Enters the Sanctuary In Silence.)

A RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: All you who pass this way,
C: Look and see the shadow of sin.
P: All you who pass this way,
C: look and see the weight of the world.
P: All you who pass this way,
C: look and see the suffering of our Savior.
P: All you who pass this way,
C: look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ.
P: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

MUSICAL OFFERING

See How He Dies!
Choir

THE WORD

SEQUENCE I

JUDAS & THE SLAVE

A READING FROM

LUKE 22:39-53

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." [[Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may

not come into the time of trial.”

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?” When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as though I were a rebel? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness!”

REFLECTION

PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: Dear God, Maybe I haven't betrayed you like Judas, but I have certainly been found sleeping when I should have been acting. I was found sleeping when I wasn't caring for those who were hurting. I was found sleeping when I was more concerned about myself than others. I was found sleeping when I didn't act because I was a coward. Please forgive me.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

REFLECTION HYMN

It Happened on That Fateful Night

1 It hap - pened on that fate - ful night when pow'rs of
earth and hell a - rose a - gainst the Son, our
God's de - light, and friends be - trayed him to his foes.

SEQUENCE II

THE HIGH PRIESTS HOUSE & THE COUNCIL

A READING FROM

LUKE 22:54-62

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard

and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

REFLECTION

PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: Dear God, I haven't been Judas, but I have been Peter. Maybe I didn't deny you directly, but I denied you when I didn't live out my faith. I lingered at a distance because of cowardice, and instead of boldly living out my faith, I did so only when it was convenient for me, or when there was little-to-no risk. Please forgive me.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

REFLECTION HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus



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



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,



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.

SEQUENCE III

THE TRIALS AT THE COURT OF HEROD AND THE COURT OF PILATE

A READING FROM

LUKE 23:1-11

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate.

REFLECTION

PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: Dear God, I have allowed myself to get caught up in hate, and even worse I have added to that hate. I knew it was wrong, but I lacked the courage to stand up for what was right. I should have said that hate has no place here, but I was silent. Please forgive me.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

“Largo” Second Movement
from New World Symphony
French Horn Solo, Peter Schlueter

SEQUENCE IV

THE PEOPLE CONDEM JESUS

A READING FROM

LUKE 23:13-23

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him.

Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed.

REFLECTION

PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: Dear God, Maybe I haven't directly mocked you, but I have mocked you by how I have treated others. You say that we are all created in your image, and that when I care for the least of these, I care for you. I have not always done that, and by my lack of care for others, I have mocked you and made a mockery of my faith. Please forgive me.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

REFLECTION HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane



2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raign'd;



oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!



Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

SEQUENCE V
FLOGGED, CROWNED AND HANDED OVER

A READING FROM **JOHN 19:1-15**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

REFLECTION

PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: Dear God, I struggle to see Jesus as my king. We are enamored with power and wealth, and Jesus desires neither of these. I know Jesus is the king that I need, but I struggle to put aside my worldly desires and adopt your eternal gifts. Please forgive me.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

1..O come and mourn with me a - while; O come ye
 2..Have we no tears to shed for Him. While sol - diers
 3..Seven times He spake seven words of love; And all three
 4..O love of God! O sin of man! In this dread

to the Sav - ior's side: O come, to - geth - er
 scoff an foes de - ride? Ah! look how pa - tient -
 hours His si - lence cried for mer - cy on the
 act your strength is tried: And vic - to - ry re -

let us mourn: Je - us, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied!
 -ly he hangs: Je - us, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied!
 souls of men: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied!
 -mains with love: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied!

SEQUENCE VI

CRUCIFIED

A READING FROM

LUKE 23:33-34a

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.

A READING FROM

JOHN 19:19-27

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man

said, I am King of the Jews.’ ” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

“They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

And that is what the soldiers did.

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.

REFLECTION

PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: Dear God, I have not always followed the example of your son. Where he would go out of his way to connect with and care for those who had been outcasts, I have been precise and calculated about my relationships. I have surrounded myself with those who would improve my image, or with others who would add to my personal gain. In doing so, I have also rejected those who the world would rather avoid. Please forgive me.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

REFLECTION HYMN

Were You There



- 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?



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?

SEQUENCE VII

FINAL BREATH

A READING FROM

MARK 15:33-37

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Music by Hans Leo Hassler / Arranged by John Purifoy
Piano Solo, Bill Nunez

RESSESSION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CLOSING OF THE TOMB

LORD'S PRAYER (*WHISPERED*)

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.

(PLEASE DEPART IN SILENCE)



EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

Ministers: The People of God

Pastor: Chris Hermansen

Minister of Youth: Kris Perkola

Director of Worship and Music: Steve Belfield, Interim

Worship Production: Steve Belfield

Worship Accompanist: Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.

Church Administrator: Bonnie Bradberry

Copyrights

Ah Holy Jesus

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt. Music: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Copyright Holder: Public Domain

It Happened On That Fateful Night

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; hymnal version Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978
Music: W. Hauser, Hesperian Harp, 1848
Arr. © Augsburg Fortress
Used with permission: One License A-701882

“Largo” Second Movement

From the New World Symphony by Antonin Dvorak
Arr. by Diego Marani
Used with permission

Go to dark Gethsemane

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854
Music: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901
Text & Music: Public Domain

O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863
Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876
Text & Music: Public Domain

Were You There

Text: African American spiritual
Music: African American spiritual
Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress
Used with permission: One License A-701882

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

© Copyright 2021 Ken Barker Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved.
Music: Hans Leo Hassler
Text: Paul Gerhardt
Arrangement: John Purifoy
Used with permission

OneLicense A-701882
CCLI License #2933416

Financial Giving Options



- ◆ Text EPIPHANYGA to 73256
- ◆ Use your bank's online bill pay feature to set up recurring giving
- ◆ Mail a check to Epiphany
- ◆ Drop it in the offering plate on Sunday

1350 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Suwanee, GA 30024
(770) 831-1966 ~ info@epiphanysuwanee.org
www.epiphanysuwanee.org