

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
April 3, 2026
Good Friday



Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering basket as you leave the service.

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.

Many of our worship materials are taken from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Page numbers are located in the front half of the book, and hymn numbers are located in the back half of the book.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.

All gather in silence

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Anthem "Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross" Chancel Choir

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin. The servant pours himself out to death and is numbered with the transgressors, images that the early church saw as important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22 (paraphrase)

The refrain is sung first by a soloist, then repeated and sung as indicated (R).



My God, my God, why have you for - sak - en me?

People who see me are scornful,
sneering at me, and tossing their heads.
"His trust was in God, let God save him,
come to the aid of his own special friend!" **R**

Dogs have surrounded me, howling;
criminal gangs approach and attack.
My hands and my feet they are tearing,
all of my bones can be easily seen. **R**
They have divided my clothing,
gambling with straws or dice for my robe.
Please, God, do not leave me forsaken,
hasten to help me, O God of my strength. **R**

I will proclaim to my people;
your name, O Lord, they worship and praise.
All children of Jacob, give glory,
children of Israel, come worship your God. **R**

Second Reading Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 224-225

Hebrews 10:16-25

In the death of Jesus, forgiveness of sins is accomplished and access to God is established. Hence, when we gather together for worship and when we love others, we experience anew the benefits of Jesus' death.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW hymn 338

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 112-113

John 18:1-19:42

In his death Jesus functions as great high priest who experiences temptation and suffering in order that we would receive mercy and find grace, because he is the source of true salvation.

Sermon

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW hymn 351

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Bidding Prayer

After each bid, silence is kept.

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

Let us pray for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God. . .

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism. . .

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

(Continued on the next page.)

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

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

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

Let us pray for God's creation. . .

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

Let us pray for those in need. . .

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.**

"Were You There"

Mark Zempel, soloist

Adoration of the Cross

ELW hymn 803

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

"Rise Again"

Riley MacDonald, soloist

At the end of the service, you may come forward to make a sign of reverence before the cross. Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.

All depart in silence

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