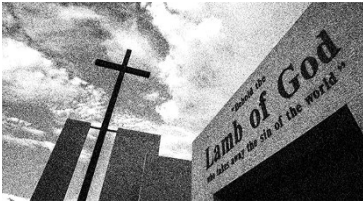

Good Friday

March 29, 2024



LAMB OF GOD 
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Lamb of God Lutheran Church

Reaching Out. Reaching Up. Reaching Across.

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WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for worship this evening. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

If you would like to meet with Pastor Koepke, please contact him to make an appointment. Our pastor is here to serve both Lamb of God members and our community.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

If you feel your child needs to be taken out of the service for a while, you may choose to use the children's room off the hallway near the mailboxes. We also ask everyone to reserve the back few rows for families with young children, making it easier to leave the church area if needed.

GIVING TO LAMB OF GOD

If you wish to give your offering to Lamb of God online, the QR code at the right is provided for your convenience. Several types of payment are accepted on this secure site.





Good Friday Tenebrae

Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness

The word *tenebrae* (TEN-e-bray) means “darkness.” The service we use tonight follows a pattern that has existed in Good Friday worship for centuries. Throughout the service, light will grow dim and candles will be extinguished, representing Christ’s life ebbing away.

The Reproach Prophecies

A reproach is a strong expression of disapproval. Often it involves discrediting someone, proving that an accusation they made against you was false. In the reproach prophecies, the Lord himself does just that. The people of Israel, in their worldly problems, would have the audacity to claim that God was at fault. God makes it clear to Israel that when life fell apart, it was never because he left them. It was always the other way around. We utilize these prophecies at the beginning of our worship today, as we too hear Christ’s strong call to repentance, respond by pleading for his mercy, and receive the forgiveness that he went to the cross to win for us.

Symbolic Silence

The mood of the service is most solemn, encouraging the worshipers to reflect deeply upon their own life in the light of the Passion of our Lord. No closing blessing is pronounced and the congregation disperses, leaving the darkened church in silence, yet remembering the Light which lingers and casts hope through the gloom of Good Friday.

*In keeping with the solemnity of the day,
there will be no pre-service or post-service music.
Silence for meditation is appreciated.
God bless your worship.*

✠ Order of Service ✠

CONFESSION OF SINS

Based on the Reproach Prophecies

M: Behold the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

C: Come let us worship.

M: The Lord says, "My people, what wrong have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! Through baptism, I led you from slavery to freedom, but you lead your Savior to the cross."

C: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

M: "I planted you as my fairest vineyard, I grafted you into the one true vine, I gave you the water of salvation, but you give me gall and vinegar to drink, and leave me thirsting upon a cross."

C: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

M: "I gave you a royal scepter, but you give me a crown of thorns. I raised you up to newness of life, but you raise me high upon a cross."

C: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

M: "I give you heaven, and yet you complain about that which you think you lack. I give you eternity, and yet you worry about this life. You suffer, and then you blame me, though I have proven my love! Should I not take everything from you?"

C: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

M: "What more could I have done for you? I gave you my peace and my truth, but you fight with each other, you cause pain to those I love, you dismiss those I chose to lead you. Should not my anger burn? Should not I destroy you?"

C: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

M: "I come as your brother and sister, hungry, yet you give me no food, thirsty, yet you give me no drink, a stranger, and you do not welcome me, naked, and you do not clothe me, sick and in prison, and you do not visit me."

C: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, have mercy upon us.

Silence for personal reflection and confession

M: The Lord also says, "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

C: Amen.

M: Behold the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

C: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (tune CW 125, alternate melody, 498)*

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

DIALOGUE OF REMEMBRANCE

M: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

C: By his holy cross he has redeemed the world.

M: Remember his words,

C: for they give us light.

M: Remember his works,

C: for they show us God's mercy.

M: Remember his grace,

C: for it is greater than our sin.

M: Remember his glory,

C: for it shines from the cross.

M: Remember his pain,

C: for he took it up willingly.

M: Remember his sorrow,

C: for it became our joy.

M: Remember his life,
C: for it was perfect before God.

M: Remember his death,
C: for it was ours.

M: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
C: By his holy cross he has redeemed the world.

HYMN: *O Dearest Jesus (CW117:1- 5)*

O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession
What dark transgression?

They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
They give you gall to drink, they still decry you;
They crucify you.

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
This I do merit.

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that love to wander;
The Master pays the debt his servants owe him,
Who would not know him.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
We forfeited our lives, yet are acquitted
God is committed.



READING: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

It was the Lord's will to sacrifice his servant so that we might be justified.

¹³See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—¹⁵so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

¹Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. ⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *The Power of the Cross*

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day, Christ on the road to Calvary,
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then, nailed to a cross of wood.

Chorus: This, the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us;
 Took the blame, bore the wrath—we stand forgiven at the cross

Oh to see the pain written on your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought, every evil deed crowning your blood-stained brow.

Chorus

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life, “Finished,” the victory cry.

Chorus

Oh to see my name written in the wounds, for through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live, won through your selfless love.

Final Chorus: This, the pow'r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.
 What a love! What a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

SERMON: Voices Around the Cross

THE ACCOUNT OF JESUS' DEATH - HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS

Jesus' Death and Burial, Part 1

Congregation Sings:

Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!

Three candles are extinguished.

Jesus' Death and Burial, Part 2

Solo: *Gethsemane (To See the King of Heaven Fall)*

Three candles are extinguished.

Jesus' Death and Burial, Part 3

Congregation Sings:

Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Your peace be with us, O Jesus!

The final candle is extinguished.

Jesus' Death and Burial, Part 4

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

One candle is relit.

HYMN: *Rest, O Christ, From All Your Labor (CWS 718:1-3)*

With his victory accomplished on the cross and credited to us in Holy Baptism, Christians bid peaceful rest to their Savior as they anticipate their celebration of his glorious resurrection on Easter dawn.

Rest, O Christ, from all your labor; sleep within your borrowed tomb.
Foes have crucified and bound you fast within death's narrow room.
Pilate's guards stand watching, waiting where they rolled the sealing stone.
All unseen another watches: God will not forsake his own.

Peace at last from all your anguish, wounds in hand and feet and side.
Enemies no longer mock you, scourged, abandoned, crucified.
Faithful women gather spices, weep for you whom sin has slain.
Though they mourn, the God who guards you will not let your death be vain.

Help us keep this solemn Sabbath as we wait for Easter dawn.
Earth's dark night of sin is passing; death's long reign will soon be gone.
Christ, in whom the new creation rises brighter than the sun:
May we, as we watch for morning, trust the vict'ry you have won.

PSALM 51

The minister kneels before the altar. Speaking on behalf of the congregation, he confesses our sin to God in the words of King David from Psalm 51.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.
Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.

Now a single candle remains lit. Though all may seem lost, though darkness and death may seem to have prevailed at Christ's death, yet this solitary candle lingers and casts hope. It points us through the gloom and reminds us of the certain hope of Christ's victory over death on Easter Sunday, a victory he also shares with us.

There is no final blessing, and there is no post-service music. The ushers will not usher out at the end of the service to allow for the congregation to remain for prayer and meditation. You may leave the sanctuary whenever you wish, but please leave in silence and do not converse with one another inside the church. There will not be a greeting line at the doorway.

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EASTER 2024

March 31

7:30am - early service outside

9:30am - service

In a world where intelligence can be artificial, news can be misinformation, reality can be virtual, and conversations can be had with a chatbot, how do you prove what's real? Two thousand years ago, Jesus of Nazareth proved that he is the Son of God and savior of the world. How? By rising from the dead. The reality of his resurrection means peace, forgiveness, and your resurrection are just as real. Come and see! Christ has *indeed* been raised from the dead.

—LET'S CELEBRATE—
EASTER
—TOGETHER—