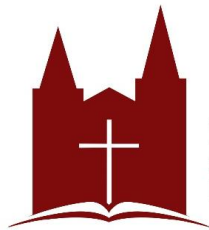


Friday April 3rd, 2026



Look Up to Find the Source of Salvation



St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Look Up to Find the Source of Salvation

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The bell tolls seven times and the minister enters in silence

Stand

Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

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.

A moment of silent reflection

Be seated

Hymn

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

CW 432 sts. 1-4

O almighty God, merciful Father,
I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment both now and forever. But I am truly sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken
CW 432 sts. 5, 7

Reading *Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9*

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

⁷During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

Sermon **Pastor Matt Holtz**

Hymn **Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted**
CW 430 sts. 1, 4

First Word

Luke 23:32–34

³²Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Stand

Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me;
They pierce my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.

He bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Gracious Savior, you did not strike back with revenge against your enemies as they ridiculed and crucified you but prayed for their forgiveness. In your compassion, pardon us for our secret sins and sins we do not discern, and enlighten us to know and do your will.
Amen.

Be seated

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Hymn

What Grace Is This

CW 395

Second Word

Luke 23:35–43

³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews.

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Stand

All who see me mock me;
They hurl insults, shaking their heads.

“He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people.
Come to my aid when you save them.

Mighty Redeemer, remember us as we walk through the darkest valleys of life and realize that our time on earth is ending. Stay close to us when we feel the pain and loneliness of dying and take away our fears with your certain promise of paradise.

Amen.

Be seated

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Hymn

Lamb of God

CW 550

Third Word

John 19:25–27

²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” ²⁷and to the disciple, “Here is your

mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Stand

This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.
And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?
**Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother.**

Precious Jesus, you consider us friends and care about the needs of our
bodies and souls. Keep us in your care as we walk the road of life and
provide the blessings we need to gain safety, contentment, and joy in
your service.
Amen.

Be seated

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Hymn

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

CW 435 sts. 2-4

Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45, 46

⁴⁵From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the
land.

⁴⁶About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli,
Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?”).

Stand

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
**Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of
anguish?**

My God, I cry out by day but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

“In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “I will make the sun go
down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight.”

Lord Jesus, you endured the horrific penalty of our sins as your Father
turned his face from you on the cross. Compel us to see in your
sacrifice the dreadful nature of sin and call us to acknowledge the
amazing depth of your love. Overcome our shame, dear Savior, and
give us grateful faith.

Amen.

Be seated

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Choir Anthem

Gethsemane Hymn

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend

*To see the King of heaven fall in anguish to His knees;
The Light and Hope of all the world now overwhelmed with grief.
What nameless horrors must He see, to cry out in the garden.
“O take this cup away from Me, yet not My will but Yours, yet not My will but Yours.”*

*To know each friend will fall away, and heaven’s voice be still,
For hell to have its vengeful day upon Golgotha’s hill.
No words describe the Savior’s plight to be by God forsaken
Till wrath and love are satisfied, and ev’ry sin is paid, and ev’ry sin is paid.*

*What took Him to this wretched place? What kept Him on this road?
His love for Adam’s helpless race, for ev’ry broken soul
No sin too slight to overlook, no crime too great to carry,
All raingled in this poisoned cup, and yet He drank it all.
The Savior drank it all. The Savior drank it all.*

Fifth Word

John 19:28, 29

²⁸After this, when he knew that all things necessary for the Scripture to
be fulfilled had now been accomplished, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A
jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the
sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

Stand

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof
of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched.

They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Dear Jesus, as our brother on earth you endured the agony of pain that
besieged your body when your sacrifice was complete. Knowing our
experiences, hover over us with your care and compassion when our
bodies and hearts are hurting. Provide us with strength that we may
confess you with confidence and power.

Amen.

Be seated

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Hymn

The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 5

Sixth Word

John 19:30

³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With
that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Stand

On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the
inhabitants of Jerusalem,
to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

Because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.
**I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.**

Gracious Redeemer, you paid the full price for our redemption and have released us forever from the hold of Satan, the power of sin, and the fear of death. Protect us from the devil's claim that we need to do more and from the accusation of our consciences that we have not done enough. Lead us to place our entire confidence in you and to live our lives secure in your grace.

Amen.

Be seated

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Hymn

The Power of the Cross

CW 423

Seventh Word

Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Stand

Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.

He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Loving Savior, at the moment of your death you gave yourself into the loving hands of your Father. As we close our eyes in death, lead us to commit our bodies and souls to him who has summoned us by name and made us his own because of you and your love. Then, we pray, let us depart in peace.

Amen.

Be seated

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Reading

John 19:31-42

³¹Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

³⁸Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Silence for meditation

Prayer

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

A loud sound may now be heard in the sanctuary. Known as the Strepitus, this sound represents the rending of Jesus' tomb. The Resurrection Candle is lit, foreshadowing Christ's return to life.

Dismissal statement

Brothers and sisters, go in peace.

Amen.

The minister exits in silence.

Worshippers may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

Acknowledgments

A Service of the Seven Words from the Cross from Christian Worship

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WORSHIP NOTES:

Preacher & Presiding Minister: Matt Holtz

Accompanist: Philip Machkovech

Featuring the Hallel Group

Service Team Woehler

An Offering Note: The offering plates will not be passed this evening. Collection plates will be available in the narthex.