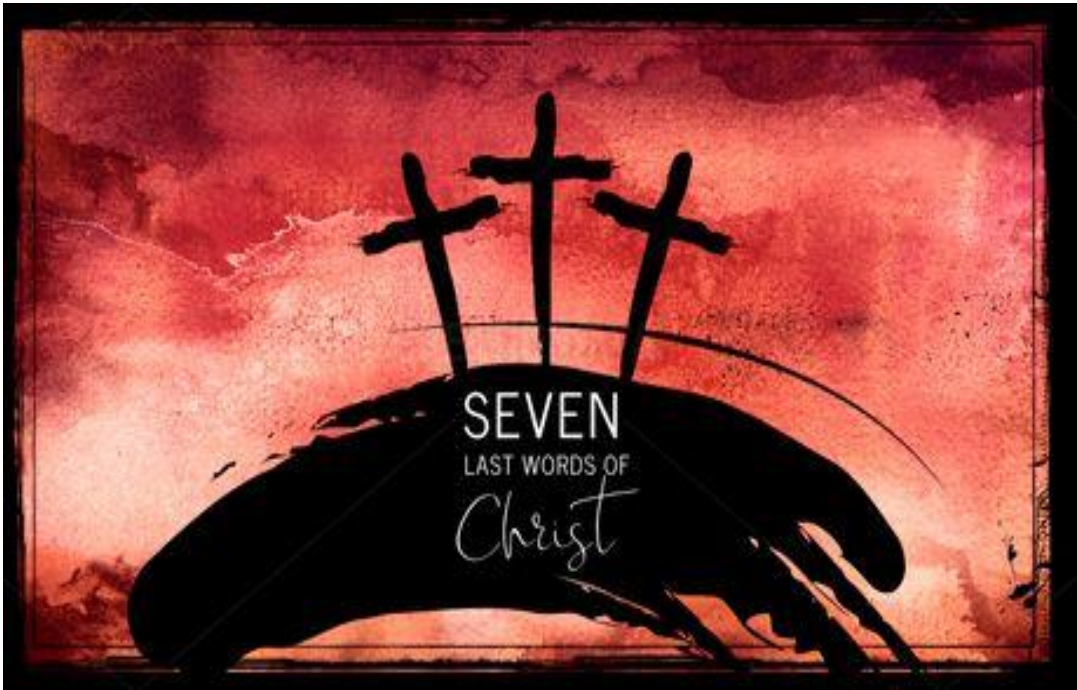


*“Into your hands I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.”
Ps. 31:5*



**Good Friday
Tenebrae
April 18, 2025
7:00pm**

THE STORY: *The Hour of Darkness*

On this day, we remember that the church gathers not to mourn but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. As we listen to scripture readings and the lights are gradually extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the "strepitus"; and through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.

PRAYER CARD

If you have a Prayer Request, use the **YELLOW** card that is available in the narthex, from an usher, or in the pew racks. Ushers will collect the cards before the Sermon so that prayers can be offered during the Intercessions.

If you are visiting with us, please use the Information Update on the reverse side of the card. Include your name and address and other important information. If our congregation can assist you in any way, please put that information on the card or speak to the Pastor.

ASSISTANCE

The ushers can supply parents of small children with soft toys, books, and a weekly children's worship bulletin. The parlor (the room behind the sanctuary) has a loud speaker and window so that, if necessary, parents can use it as a cry room and still see and hear the service. Large-print editions of our worship service are also available from the ushers.

HOLY COMMUNION

Based on the teachings of Scripture and in response to the Lord's admonition that, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)," we ask that those who attend the Lord's Supper ask of themselves the following questions:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God's grace? (1 John 1:8-9)
2. Are you truly sorry for your sins? (1 Cor. 11:26-29)
3. Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? (Romans 5:6)
4. Do you intend with the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life? (2 Cor. 5:15)
5. Do you believe you receive Christ's true body and blood in the Lord's Supper?
(Mark 14:22-24)
6. Do you trust God and His promises and accept as true all He teaches in Holy Scriptures? (John 8:31-32)
7. Have you been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
(Matthew 28:19-20)

If your answer to these questions is yes, then we welcome you to the Lord's Supper. If you are new to Faith Lutheran or have any questions, burdens, or doubts concerning the sacrament, please speak with the Pastor before communing. Adults and children not receiving the Body and Blood of Christ may instead come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten free rice wafers are available. Please indicate this by clearly raising your index finger. White grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine. Please inform an usher if you are unable to come to the altar; the elements will be brought to you.

GOOD FRIDAY, 7:00PM

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO WAS PIERCED FOR US

As We Gather

In this Lenten season we have considered all the works of our Lord's hand contrasted with the works of our hands. His hands created us. At His hands, the devil and his demons are defeated and put in their place. His are the careful, gentle yet strong hands of a Great Physician bringing healing not only of sickness and injury but the ultimate healing of raising us from death itself. To this day the hand of the Lord cares for us and feeds us with spiritual nourishment and life. How different are the works of our hands, unable to grasp what we need the most: the help and mercy and grace of God. In the most mysterious way, it was our hands that nailed His hands to the cross, and it was our sin that caused His grief, sorrow, and bitter suffering and death. Yet in those nail-pierced hands was the power to take our sin away and give into our hands forgiveness, life, and salvation. We caused His death. His death gives us life. Without His death, today there can be no Easter resurrection. It all comes down to this: Christ crucified for the life of the world. Without His death there can be no salvation. Let us contemplate His death at our hands that we may receive eternal life from His hands.

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

THE APPROACH TO GOD

GREETING

P: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

P: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

C: His mercy endures forever.

P: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into this world, and we loved darkness rather than light.

C: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

P: For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

C: Every one that does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light. But all who do what is true come to the light.

P: Come, let us worship in spirit and truth.

543 What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second and fifty-third chapters.

Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall He sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

C **Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

P For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.

C **He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

P He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of My people? And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth.

C Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for sin, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

P Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

C Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Silence

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 19:14-25a

Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, '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 garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon/Meditation

Silence

426 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalms in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

Text and tune: Public domain

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

THE FIRST WORD: Luke 23:32-34

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

P: The word of the Lord.

G: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:1)

**O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.**

A candle is extinguished

THE SECOND WORD: Luke 23:35-43

And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” ⁴¹And he indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

P: The word of the Lord.

G: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:2)

**How pale Thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

A candle is extinguished

THE THIRD WORD: John 19:25-27

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:3)

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.**

A candle is extinguished

THE FOURTH WORD: Matthew 27:45-49

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:4)

**My Shepherd, now receive me;
My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
To heav’nly joys above.**

A candle is extinguished

THE FIFTH WORD: John 19:28-29

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:5)

**What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.**

A candle is extinguished

THE SIXTH WORD: Luke 23:46

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (*LSB* 450:6)

**My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!**

A candle is extinguished

THE SEVENTH WORD: John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (*LSB* 450:7)

**Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.**

A candle is extinguished

The Christ candle is removed from the sanctuary.

While the sanctuary is darkened, there is silence for meditation.

A loud sound is heard symbolizing the closing of the tomb.

The Christ candle is returned to the sanctuary in anticipation of the ultimate victory.

P Let us pray.

We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P May Jesus Christ who for our sakes became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you.

C Amen

Those who wish to remain for prayer and meditation are invited to do so.

Acknowledgments

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

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