

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church & Royal Family

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



Order of Worship
April 18, 2025 | 5:30 pm

Pastor Matthew Cephus

3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418
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Pianist: Karrie Kikeh

Good Friday

AS WE GATHER: It is on that day that we get to see and learn the true meaning of forgiveness, being humble, and what it means to accept the cup of suffering. "Forgiveness is one of the key points of Good Friday and a lesson we need to pick as Christians.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS: At the end of the service, please depart in silence.

OPENIGN HYMN

"Grace Greater Than Our Sin"

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater— yes, grace untold—
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Refrain

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide;
What can we do to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,
Brighter than snow you may be today.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

L: We gather here to worship God.

C: **We gather to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us and to thank God for His love and His mercy.**

L: Let us pray. Merciful God, we come before You on this day, remembering the Savior whom You sent, the suffering that paid the cost of our redemption, and the death that killed death, once for all.

C: **Give us such faith in Your Son and in the salvation He has won, that we may not despair for lack of hope nor surrender ourselves to evil, but call upon His saving name with thanksgiving in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them 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.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LSB 427 vs 1,2,4

Text & Tune: Public domain

In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fear annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

The First Word: "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*"

Gospel of Luke, Twenty Third Chapter

Read by Karmon Christopherson

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called Golgotha, that is, The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

And they cast lots to divide his garments.

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!"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Homily: *"The compassionate and merciful Savior."*

O merciful Father, you are the God who forgives, and we know that we cannot even rightly ask for forgiveness without your grace. Grant to us, of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, forgiveness for all that we have done, for all the sins we have committed. We plead this in the most beloved and holy name of your Son Jesus Christ, who even on the Cross, begged forgiveness for we who put Him there. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LSB 425, vs 1-2

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.

The first candle is extinguished.

The Second Word: *"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

Gospel of Luke, Twenty Third Chapter

Read by Karmon Christopherson

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Homily "*The Christ who saves.*"

Lord God, you are a God who executes justice, who is perfect in your righteousness. We deserve nothing but utter condemnation, eternal death, and the fires of Hell for our sins. Yet you have sent your son to die for us, and through your son, we are saved. We give thanks, O Lord, and ask that you strengthen our faith in His life, death, and resurrection, through which we are saved and through which we receive your abundant grace. Never let our faith falter or die. And for those who know not your son, we humbly beseech you, that you send your Holy Spirit to make alive those who are still dead in their sins, that they too may be saved through Christ Jesus, in whose most holy and precious name we pray. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LSB 425, vs 3-4

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!

The second candle is extinguished.

The Third Word: "*Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother!*"

Gospel of John Nineteenth Chapter

Read by Jason Matasovksy

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, but standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!"

And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Homily "*The Christ who loves and cares (for us).*"

Gracious Father, you sent your Son to the Cross to die for our sins, and through this incredible gift, we are forgiven. As you pour out your grace and your rich blessings upon us, you give us not only our daily bread, but you make us part of your eternal family of faith; you make us your beloved sons and daughters. And in this, you provide for our deepest needs, our needs of love. We give thanks, O God, and we ask that, in your bountiful generosity, you strengthen the bonds of love that make us, your children, a people and your family. We ask this in the most beautiful and holy name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 449, vs 1-2

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.

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.

The third candle is extinguished.

The Fourth Word: "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*"

Gospel of Mark Fifteenth Chapter

Read by Jason Matasovksy

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Homily "*Christ who suffered for our sin.*"

Most Holy and High God, you so loved the world that you sent your only begotten Son, that He might bear our sin; that on the Cross, your perfect justice, perfect mercy, and perfect love might all be made manifest, and that we should be forgiven for our sins with which we have grievously offended you and harmed our neighbor. We give thanks

for, and in the name of, your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who bore the unimaginable weight of our sin. Who became sin for us, who died for us, that we might have life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

LSB 449, vs 3-4

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.

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.

The fourth candle is extinguished.

The Fifth Word: *"I thirst."*

Gospel of John, Nineteenth Chapter

Read by Pastor Matthew

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

A 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.

Homily *"Christ who thirsts."*

Mighty God, we stand before you condemned by our own sin, and by our utter lack of righteousness before you. We give thanks for your son who has restored us to you, and through whom we receive righteousness. We confess that our works and deeds earn us nothing before you, even as we are given, by your grace, to thirst for righteousness, and we give thanks that we are clothed with His perfect righteousness, and that in this, we become your very own beloved sons and daughters. It is in His beloved and holy name, in the name of Jesus Christ, that we pray these things. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

The Sixth Word: *"It is finished."*

Gospel of John, Nineteenth Chapter

Read by Verlayne Sather

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said "It is finished."

Homily: *"Christ who completes his mission of redemption"*

Heavenly Father, so often we look to ourselves; so often we try to depend on ourselves and not upon you and the work of your beloved Son on the Cross. Forgive us. Send us your Holy Spirit, that our eyes may be made clear as we look to your work on the Cross, that we may be blessed to look to what has been done for us in love and gratitude. Never let us forget that the forgiveness of sins and our salvation has been accomplished for us through Christ Jesus alone, and that it is finished. It is in His glorious, beloved, and holy name that we pray these things. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross Be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star Shed His beams around me. **Refrain**

Near the cross! O lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day With its shadow o'er me. **Refrain**

Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river. **Refrain**

The sixth candle is extinguished.

The Seventh Word: *"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"*

Gospel of Luke, Twenty Third Chapter

Read by Verlayne Sather

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed.

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

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.

Homily *"Christ Who Has Died. He surrenders his life to God, signifying his ultimate trust and obedience to the Father's will."*

Dear Father in Heaven, you gave your only begotten son to live for us and to die for us. Father, forgive us. Give us repentant hearts that both know the harm our sin has done, and that let us grasp the cost of our sin, but too, know that we are forgiven and loved through the work of Christ Jesus on the Cross.

But this night, O Father, let us remember the price of our forgiveness. Help us remember what was given, that we might have freedom in Christ; and be freed from the bondage of sin. Let us not forget that for our salvation, your dear Son suffered all, even unto death itself.

We pray these things in His beloved, holy, and precious name, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The seventh candle is extinguished.

The Last Word: *"Truly this was the Son of God!"*

Gospel of Matthew, Twenty Seventh Chapter

Read by Pastor Matthew

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Homily *"The Last Word!"*

CLOSING DUET "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power" P. Matthew & Patience

***Please depart in silence and in contemplation of Christ who was Crucified
for the sins of the world.***

+ WE DEPART TO SERVE +

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Easter Service

Please join us Sunday, April 20 for Easter Service at 10:30 AM as we continue our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Gloria Dei also welcomes you to worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM and Royal Family every Sunday at 11:45 AM

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. It is followed by Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding his victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to him by faith.

Romans 6:5

