



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

April 3, 2026 + Good Friday

In this service for Good Friday, stand at the foot of the cross on Golgotha, the Place of the Skull, where the crucified Christ breathes his last for our sake. His suffering is in plain view, as well as his great love. His death redeems us all.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



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Confession & Forgiveness

Jesus, our Savior and Lord,
will lead us to behold the agony of his rejection,
the pain of his condemnation, and the horror of his crucifixion.

**Empower us to walk where you walked, Lord Jesus,
and to the people you encountered on that Friday so long ago.**

Stay with us, Lord,
as we witness your suffering and listen to your last words of love.
**As we approach Calvary, let us become mindful of our sins
and of our willful rebellion against your holy commandments.**

And now, let us confess our sins to God...

Silence for meditation and self-examination.

Eternal God,
**we confess that we have turned away from you
in our thinking, speaking and doing.
We have lived for ourselves
and have refused to bear the burdens of others.
We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.
O God, we have tried to hide from you and from one another.
We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us
and the failed relationships that haunt us.
We cannot plead the strength of our temptations
or the frailty of our nature, or place the blame on other people.
We can only say Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
Lord, have mercy!**

Hear the good news!
Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death for you.
Jesus was determined
to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha for you.
That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally.
Faithful Lord, with me abide! I shall follow where you guide!

Opening Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#351



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite
Music: German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750
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Call to Worship

Let us ever walk with Jesus.

To see the depths of his love.

To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.
We walk with Jesus to Golgotha.

That's Aramaic for The Place of the Skull.
That's where Jesus gave us his all.

Faithful Lord, with me abide.
I shall follow where you guide!

The Greeting

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ Jesus,
bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Almighty God,
**graciously behold 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 Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Kyrie

Mercy Tree

Sr. Choir

*On a hill called Calvary stands an endless mercy tree.
Ev'ry broken, weary soul, find your rest and be made whole.
Stripes of blood that stain its frame shed to wash away our shame
From the scars, pure love released: salvation by the mercy tree.*

*In the sky between two thieves hung the blameless Prince of Peace,
bruised and battered, scarred and scorned,
sacred head pierced by our thorns.
"It is finished," was His cry. The perfect lamb was crucified.
His sacrifice, our victory; our Savior chose the mercy tree.*

*Hope went dark that violent day. The whole earth quaked at love's display.
Three days silent in the ground, this body born for heaven's crown.
And on that bright and glorious day when heaven opened up the grave:
He's alive and risen indeed! Oh, praise Him for the mercy tree!
Death has died, love has won; hallelujah, hallelujah!
Jesus Christ has overcome; He has risen from the dead.*

*One day soon, we'll see His face; ev'ry tear, He'll wipe away.
No more pain or suffering, praise Him for the mercy tree
Death has died, love has won; hallelujah, hallelujah!
Jesus Christ has overcome, He has risen from the dead*

*Death has died, love has won; hallelujah, hallelujah!
Jesus Christ has overcome, He has risen from the dead.
On a hill called Calvary stands an endless mercy tree*

The Adoration of the Cross

Behold, the life-giving cross
on which was hung the salvation of the world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

Behold, the life-giving cross
on which was hung the salvation of the world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

Behold, the life-giving cross
on which was hung the salvation of the world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

Our Procession to the Life-Giving Cross of Jesus

Tonight, you received a nail with your bulletin.
The nail, on this night of all nights, has special significance.
It is our Christian belief that Jesus was nailed to the cross
not only by the soldiers who were assigned to do that awful deed;
not only by the Pharisees
and the crowd who would not rest until he had been nailed there;
not only by Pontius Pilate,
who issued the order that nailed him there . . .

but also, by each and every one of us.
Since he died for our sins, we too are responsible for his death.

During the next hymn you are invited to come before the cross.
When you are ready, come forward and stand or kneel
before the life-giving cross of our Lord and Savior.

The purpose of the nail is to give each of us the opportunity, if you wish,
to enact the truth of our participation in Jesus' death symbolically
as you hammer your nail into the cross or simply lay it upon the cross.

Hymn

The Old Rugged Cross

(TF #77)



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross.
2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross so de - spised by the world,
3 In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
a won - drous beau - ty I see;
its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Hymn continues on the next page

Refrain

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my
tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged
cross. and ex - change it some day for a crown.

Text & Music: George Bennard, 1873-1958
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The Bidding Prayer with the Last Words of Christ

We commemorate this solemn occasion with a service of Darkness to remind us that Jesus entered the deepest darkness of death for us. Seven candles will be extinguished during this part of the service representing the seven last sentences Jesus spoke from the cross. The gradual extinguishing of the light signifies the darkness that covered the earth while Jesus hung on the cross, as well as the excruciating death of our Lord.

Hymn

The Seven Words

(Tune: #599)



- 1 Our Sav-ior speaks in grace with words of mer - cy true:
- 2 His won-drous pit - y see! Un - to the thief he cries:
- 3 To Ma - ry, look-ing on, "Be - hold your son," he says.
- 4 Now hear the aw - ful cry, sin's dread-ful bur-den see.
- 5 As one of us he dies. Sin's pow'r has done its worst.
- 6 "Tis fin-ished," says the Lord. The bur-den on him laid
- 7 "Fa - ther, in - to your hands my spir - it I com-mend."



“For - give them, Fa - ther,” thus he prays; “They know not what they do.”
“To - day, I tell you, you will be with me in par - a - dise.”
“Be - hold your mo - ther,” thus on John love’s bur - den gent - ly lays.
“My God, my God,” the Son shouts, “Why have you for - sak - en me?”
From hell’s dread ag - on - y he cries a sim - ple word: “I thirst.”
of sin - ful thought and deed and word the debt is ful - ly paid.
And he who hears and un - der - stands re - ceived him at the end.

Text: Arden W. Mead (1936-2006)
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Music: W. Daman, The Psalmes of Daud, 1579, alt.
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P: Let us pray for all those who are doing evil . . .

(Silent Prayer)

A: When they came to the place that is called the Skull,
they crucified Jesus there with the criminals,
one on his right and one on his left.

Then Jesus said, ‘Father forgive them;
for they do not know what they are doing.’ (Luke 23:33-34a)

P: Let us pray for the proud, the violent, and the malicious;
let us pray for blasphemers, unbelievers, heretics;
let us pray for all who exploit others, tyrannize them,
use them as pawns in political power struggles;
let us pray for all who abuse power,
and so betray the trust placed in them;
let us pray for all who persecute Christians for their faith;
let us pray for the Church
when it is tempted to put expediency before truth,
self-interest before love,
and for the sake of winning human praise
crucifies the Lord afresh;
let us pray for ourselves when lack of zeal,
the deceitfulness of riches, and the cares of the world
make us the sleeping partners of social evil.
Father forgive us, for we know not what we do. **Amen.**

The first candle is extinguished

Hymn

Were You There

#353 (v. 1)

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Were You There'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all in treble clef and B-flat major. The first staff begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics '1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?'. The third staff is marked 'Refrain' and features a melodic line with a slur over the first few notes, followed by the lyrics 'Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.'. The fourth staff concludes the piece with the lyrics 'Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?'.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: African American spiritual Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress
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P: Let us pray for all those who want to repent and begin a new life,
but who feel that it is too late . . .

(Silent Prayer)

A: One of the criminals who were hanged there
kept deriding Jesus and saying,
“Are you not the Messiah? 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 have been condemned justly,
for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds,
but this man has done nothing wrong.”
Then he said, “Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you,
today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:39-43)

P: Let us pray that all those who want to repent
may learn from the dying thief
that Christ is the one nearest to them,
and that paradise is as close as he is.

And let us, as one with the thief, pray as he did:
“Lord, remember me.”

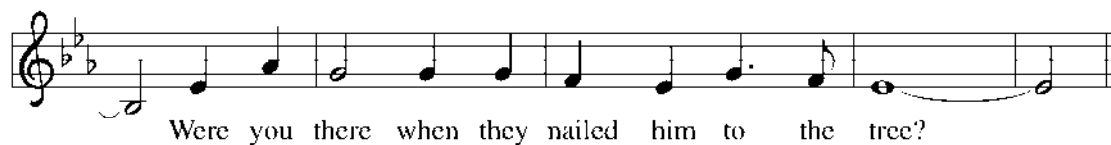
So may our last hour blend into the light of paradise,
through the power of the crucified. **Amen.**

The second candle is extinguished

Hymn

Were You There

#353 (v. 2)



P: Let us pray for all families . . .

(Silent Prayer)

A: Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother,
and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary Magdalene.

A: When Jesus saw his mother
and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her,
he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."
Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."
And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.
(John 19:25b-27)

P: Let us pray for family ties.
Let us pray for the bereaved;
let us pray that Christ may create relationships
that survive the worst blows life can give.
And let us thank him for his power in creating new relationships
that sustain us in the different stages of our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

The third candle is extinguished

Hymn

Were You There

#353 (v. 3)

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Were You There'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics '3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'Were you there when they pierced him in the side?'. The third staff is marked 'Refrain' and features a more melodic line with the lyrics 'Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.'. The fourth staff concludes the piece with the lyrics 'Were you there when they pierced him in the side?'.

P: Let us pray for all those who are forsaken . . .
(Silent Prayer)

A: From noon on,
 darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
 And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,
 "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"
 that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
 (Matthew 27:45-46)

P: Let us pray for all who are forsaken;
 for nations which are forsaken; for children who are forsaken;
 for old people who are forsaken;
 for prisoners and captives who are forsaken;
 for prophets and idealists who are forsaken;
 and for ourselves when we feel ourselves to be forsaken.
 May all people everywhere find within God's absolute demand
 God's ultimate comfort, and understanding
 that below the level of the deepest sorrows
 are the everlasting arms of God's healing love.
 May we learn to say,
 "I shall give thanks unto Him
 who is my Savior, my King, and my God." **Amen.**

The fourth candle is extinguished

Hymn

Were You There

#353 (v. 4)

4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?

Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?

P: Let us pray for all who suffer physical distress through lack of food and water

(Silent Prayer)

A: After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." (John 19:28)

P: Let us pray for all who suffer physical distress through lack of food and water, and for those whose bodies are not able to benefit from the abundance of food near at hand.

Let us pray that in their hearts they may find rivers of living water to refresh and sustain them

and prepare the way for physical relief and healing.

And let us pray for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness; that in their obedience to Christ they might have meat to eat unknown to them before and, according to Christ's promise, be satisfied. **Amen.**

The fifth candle is extinguished

Hymn

Were You There

#353 (v. 1)



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?

Refrain



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?

P: Let us thank God
that no matter how out of control our lives may be,
we can always rely upon God's faithfulness...

(Silent Prayer)

A: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed;
and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,
"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:44-46a)

P: Let us thank God
that when the conscious control of our life is beyond our grasp
we may still rest upon God's eternal changelessness.

Teach us, O Lord, to fear the grave as little as we fear our bed;
and fill our lives with the hope and faith of the resurrection,
in the knowledge that in death

our lives pass into the hands which made the world
and guide the universe, the hands of the almighty Creator.

And may we place our lives in those hands
while life is strong and full and sweet.

Father, with thanksgiving, into your hands, we commit our spirit.

Amen.

The sixth candle is extinguished

Hymn

Were You There

#353 (v. 4)



4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?



Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when the sun re-fused to shine?

P: Let us thank Christ for finishing the work that he came to do . . .

(Silent Prayer)

A: A jar full of sour wine was standing there.

So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop
and held it to his mouth.

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

Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:29, 30)

P: Let us thank Christ for finishing the work that he came to do;
let us thank him for having done for us
all that is necessary for our salvation;
let us thank him that because his work is finished
our search for forgiveness is finished
and our striving for pardon is finished.

And let us thank God that with the end of our search
there is the beginning

of a life of thankfulness, praise, and service,
offered to God not from fear but out of love.

And let us pray that we may find the work he has for us to do,
and finish it. **Amen.**

The seventh candle is extinguished

Hymn

Were You There

#353 (v. 5)

5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Refrain
Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The Solemn Recessional

(The Christ Candle is carried out of the sanctuary.)

Jesus was wounded for our transgressions.

He was bruised for our iniquities.

Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole.

By his death we are healed.

Thanks be to God for the Old Rugged Cross of Jesus.

Greater love has no man than this,
than to lay down his life for his friends.

We have no glory, except in the cross of our Lord, Jesus.

Thanks be to God for the Old Rugged Cross of Jesus.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

Thanks be to God for the Old Rugged Cross of Jesus.

*After the Strepitus, a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb, is sounded
the Lord's prayer is whispered.*

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

The Paschal Candle is returned as a sign of Hope.

There is no benediction.

*This signifies the fact that the service – and the story – are not finished,
but will be completed on Easter morning.*

*You are welcome to stay as long as you like.
When you are ready to leave, please do so in silence.*





Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, the descendants of King David. After traveling to Egypt where they stayed for a time to escape the enemies of Jesus, the family moved back to Israel into the town of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

At the age of 30 Jesus set out on his own to preach the Good News of God's love and forgiveness toward all people. He did this by frequent sermons and also by miracles of healing and by resurrections. He was a great influence on the people of Israel and many of them came to believe in him as the Christ promised by God through the Old Testament prophets.

Jesus' death comes as a result of the actions of many who rejected him. But he also died for our sins, to pay the price for our salvation. As Isaiah said, "The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

He was survived by his mother and several friends and followers, including his close gathering of disciples - with the exception of Judas, who preceded him in death. He is also survived by us today who remember his death for our sins and work to proclaim the same Gospel he preached and thus keep his memory alive in the world today as we bring lost and condemned souls to faith in him as their Savior.

His name and message and promise of eternal life will live on in our hearts as long as we live, and we will proclaim him as the Son of God to all the world.

Seven Last Sayings From the Cross

S B O N H O M E L C K I S D J
D G V M E D Y F P T I V R I F
N E K A S R O F O R E B I S N
E A N I C E T H A R T E L C A
M V O F R H A S I O G M Y I Q
M A W S I E P L Y W T I D P S
O S E R H O Y T Z I N U V L E
C A S L E V M E R U I K A E P
H T E T B O F I S O N R C I S
O B P R U I P O V I G E S O T
M I E E G S R W H E D O B F U
O D F H I X K A R O L A I P M
J E C T O R I E V F E N R T J
E L A O V L H N I K I P T A V
T I Z M I T D E G S S D O L P
V F Q U A W M I H E T E W R F
K S A F B E W E O N A M O W I
O C I T H S D N A H E T H E M

“**Father, forgive them; for they know** not what they do.” —Luke 23:34

“**Verily** I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in **paradise.**” —Luke 23:43

“He saith unto his **mother, Woman, behold thy son!** Then saith he to the **disciple,** Behold thy mother.” —John 19:26-27

“My God, my God, why hast thou **forsaken** me?” —Matthew 27:46

“I **thirst.**” —John 19:28

“It is **finished.**” —John 19:30

“Father, into thy **hands** I **commend** my **spirit.**” —Luke 23:46