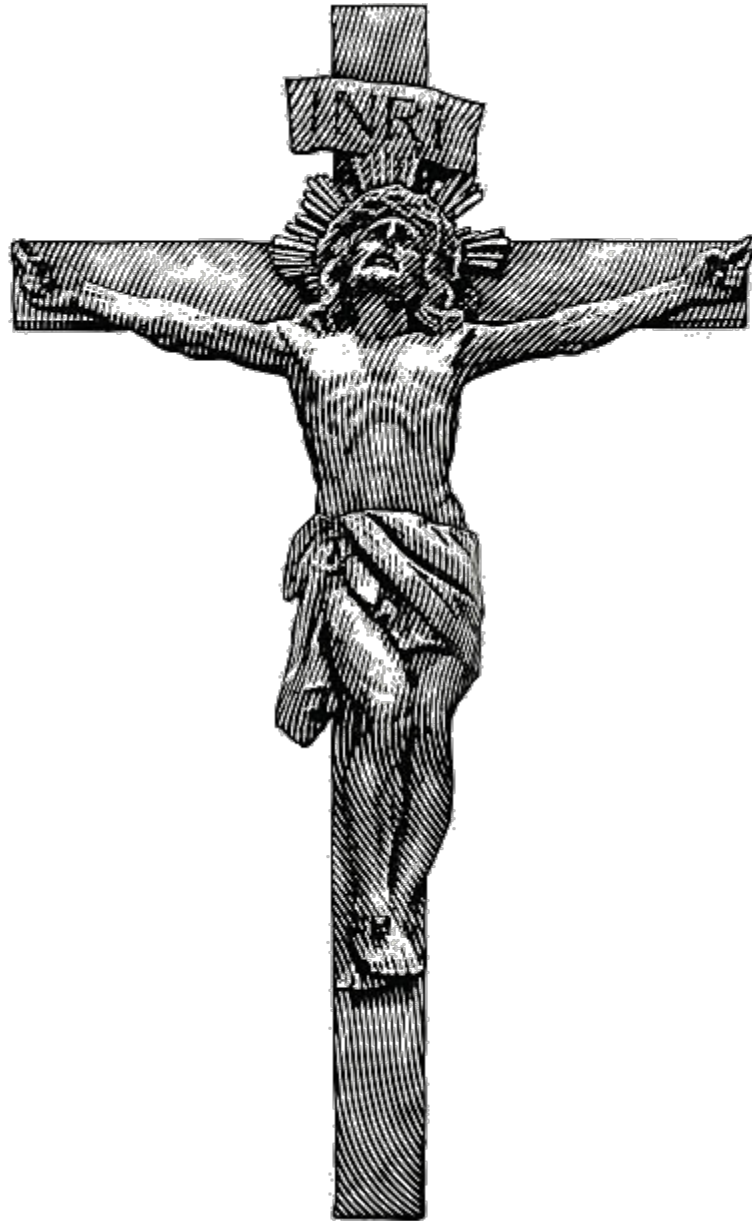


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Good Friday

April 3, 2026

Our Saviour Lutheran Church



The Service of Darkness

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

- A Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.
C **Oh come, let us worship Him.**
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C **Oh come, let us worship Him.**
A Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.
C **Oh come, let us worship Him.**
A We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
C **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Please be seated.

- A Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

- P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

- A Let us pray for Yehiel and Phyllis our bishops, for pastor T. Wes Moore, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

- P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

- A Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

All pray the Lord's Prayer.

**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.**

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM
Jesus Hanging on the Cross

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

(After each of the readings of the passion, we will sing a hymn. Then we pray in silence while one of nine candles is extinguished.)

I. Prophecy

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Song

Beneath the Cross of Jesus, stanzas 1 & 2

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

After we sing, the first candle is extinguished.

II. Jesus is Arrested

Song

After we sing, the second candle is extinguished.

John 18:1-11

Beneath the Cross of Jesus, stanza 3

III. Jesus is Questioned before Caiaphas

Song

John 18:12-27

Go to Dark Gethsemane, stanza 1

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

After we sing, the third candle is extinguished.

IV. Jesus on Trial before Pilate

Song

After we sing, the fourth candle is extinguished.

John 18:28-40

Go to Dark Gethsemane, stanzas 2 & 3

V. **Jesus is Scourged**
Song

John 19:1-7

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, st 1 & 2

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
 pres - ent 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.

After we sing, the fifth candle is extinguished.

VI. **Pilate Hands Jesus Over for Crucifixion**
Song

John 19:8-16a

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, st 3 & 4

After we sing, the sixth candle is extinguished.

VII. Jesus is Crucified
Song

John 19:16b:-22
There in God's Garden, all stanzas

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

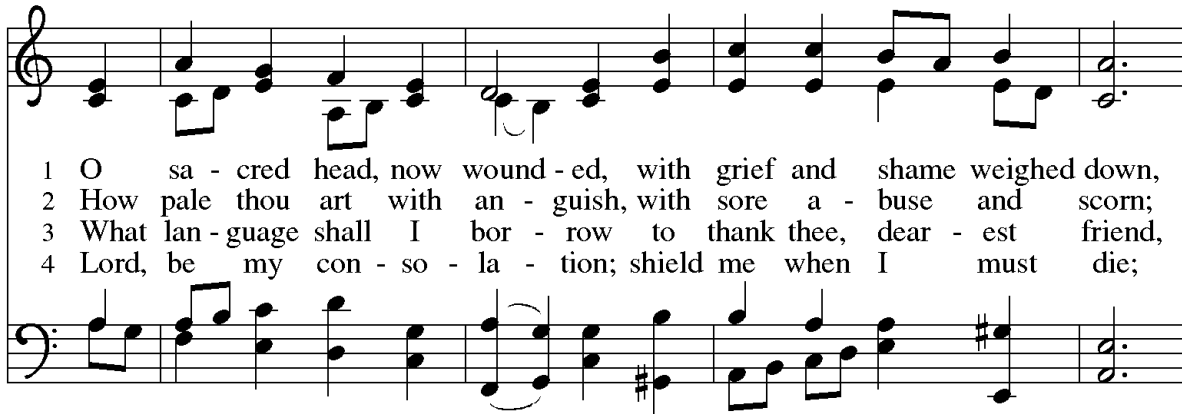
After we sing, the seventh candle is extinguished.

VIII. Jesus Dies

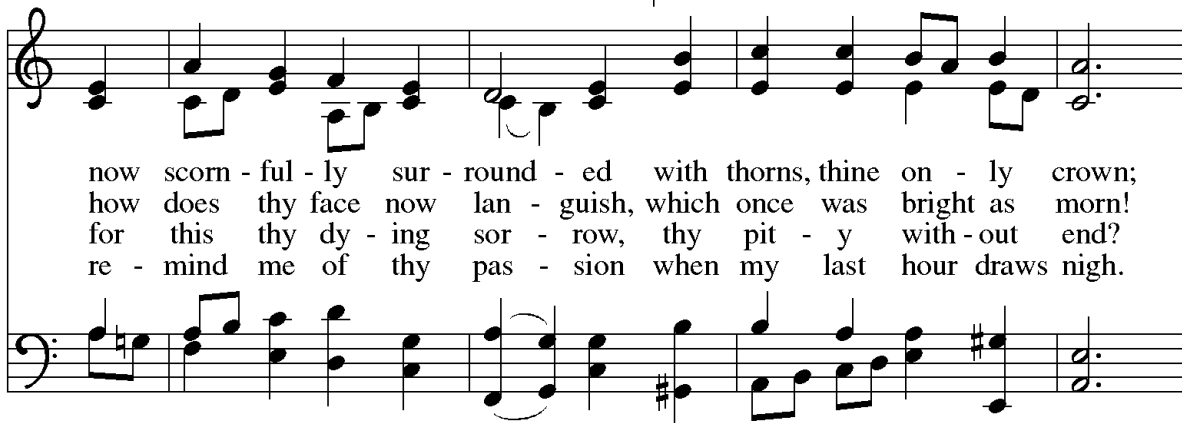
John 19:23-30

Song

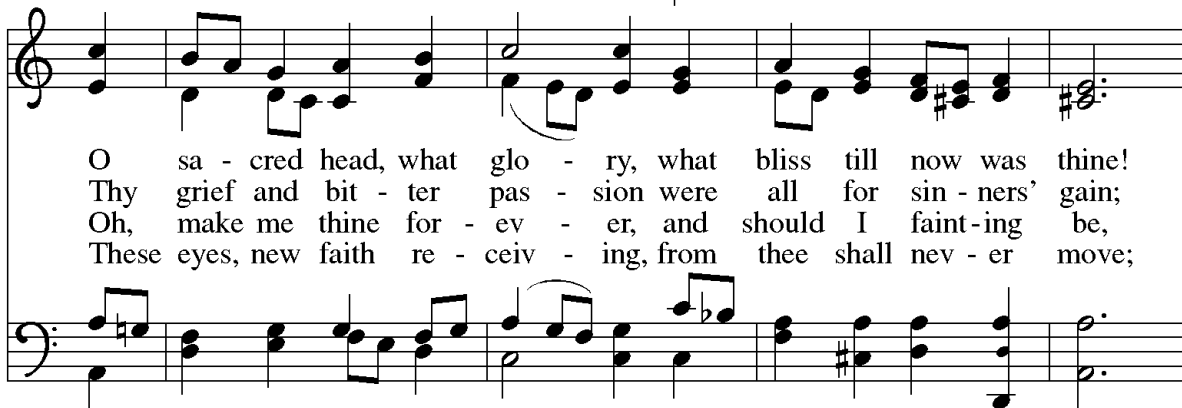
O Sacred Head Now Wounded, all stanzas



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.

After we sing, the eighth candle is extinguished.

IX. Jesus is Buried
Song

John 19:31-41
Were You There, all stanzas

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

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? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

The ninth candle and all other lights are extinguished.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP IS REMOVED.

A reminder of the Lord's death.

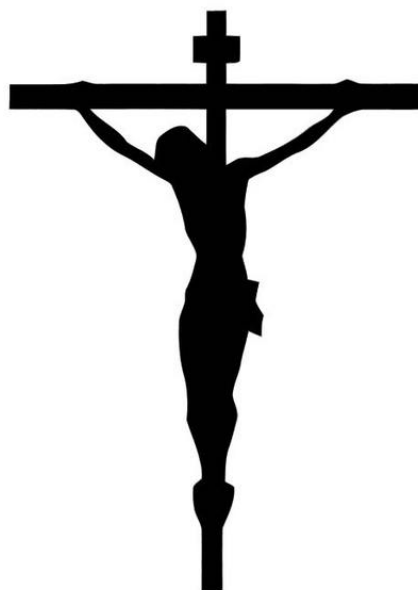
THE BOOK IS CLOSED.

A reminder of the sealing of the tomb.

WE PRAY IN SILENCE.

WE DEPART.

(You are invited to come forward to the cross, and pause for prayer before leaving the nave.)



Gather with us for our Easter Sunday Celebrations

SUNRISE SERVICE

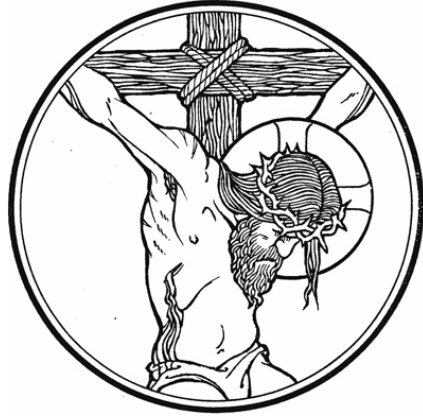
At 6:30 am

EASTER EGG HUNT & BRUNCH

At 8:45 am

HOLY COMMUNION

At 10:30 am



A Meditation on the Cross

By Martin Luther

Preached on Good Friday, 1534

Now as our dear Lord Jesus Christ is lifted into the air to hang on the cross, suspended between heaven and earth, with nothing any longer on earth to call his own, he is exercising his true, real, priestly office, accomplishing the work he came on earth to do, not only with his suffering, by offering up himself, but also by his intercessions. For both constitute a priest's work, to sacrifice and to intercede.

But when he offers himself thus for us, what garment or priestly garb does this priest, Jesus Christ, wear and what is his altar? His adornment is not a gold or silk cloak, decked with pearls or jewels, like the pope's bishops adorn themselves, nor like the Old Testament high priest who had his special priestly resplendent robes. Instead he hangs on the cross bare and naked, covered with wounds, and has, so to speak, not a thread on his body. Instead of a purple robe he is red with blood, his body covered with wounds and welts, badly swollen. Instead of a priestly headdress he wears a bloodied crown of thorns. That the adornment of this High Priest.

This High Priest is both priest and offering; for he offers up his body and life on the cross. ... Yet, he is the true Priest and Bishop, who in great love offers up himself and lets his own body be consumed for the redemption of the whole world.