

# ***GOOD FRIDAY***

*April 7, 2023*



Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School  
*1332 Arrowhead Road*  
*Grafton, Wisconsin 53024*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*On Good Friday the church remembers the crucifixion of her Lord. Her remembrance, while solemn, is not a message of gloom, but a service of adoration of the Son of God as He offers up His life as the Lamb of God. In keeping with the solemn nature of today, silence and darkness are observed.*

*To appreciate all Jesus did for us on this day, we need to see the terrible nature of our sins that put Him on the cross. Repentance over our sins is not something we decide to have, but it is something God gives us through His holy law. The Ten Commandments are a summary of that law--but only a summary. The rest of the Bible explains the true, spiritual meaning of each of the Ten Commandments. The more we hear the law, the more we are sorry for our sins. This is good, because it helps us rejoice in how much Jesus did for us on the cross. Today we will hear the Ten Commandments and examples of sins against them. This will convict us of our sin. That is the main purpose of the commandments! But we will also hear the absolution, which is based on what happened on the cross. That's why it's "Good" Friday.*

*As the worship nears an end, the remaining candle, a symbol of our Lord himself, is removed from the nave, leaving the church in darkness for silent prayer. The service is then closed by a loud sound called the strepitus, which foreshadows the rending of Christ's tomb in triumph at Easter. No benediction is pronounced. Rather, the congregation again disperses silently to reassemble on Easter Sunday. Even on Good Friday, worship honors the living Christ.*

**OPENING HYMN – “Were You There?”**

CW #119

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

**P:** In name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us hear God's holy law.

**C: You shall have no other gods.**

**P:** Examples of sins against this commandment: Loving your money or your children or yourself more than God, bragging about your accomplishments, thinking you have earned and deserve your blessings, taking pride in all you've achieved as though you are responsible, not making Jesus the center of your life.

**C: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

**P:** Examples of sins against this commandment: Using curse words, wishing evil on someone in your thoughts, needless oaths such as "Gee," or "Gosh", pretending to believe God's Word, saying or teaching something the Bible doesn't teach, being superstitious.

**C: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

**P:** Examples of sins against this commandment: Refusing to worship weekly, not listening when the Word is taught, going through the motions in worship without thinking, not loving God's Word and meditating on it, not doing what the Word says.

**C: Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**

**P:** Examples of sins against this commandment: Disobeying our parents or our government's laws or our church leaders, refusing to raise our children in God's Word, being a bad example for our children or grandchildren, speaking disrespectfully about authorities over us, continuing in our parents' sinful examples.

**C: You shall not murder.**

**P:** Examples of sins against this commandment: Harming our body by the foods we eat, using alcohol and drugs improperly, saying angry words to tell someone off, striking someone who upsets us, harboring bitterness and hatred in our hearts.

**C: You shall not commit adultery.**

**P:** Examples of sins against this commandment: Treating your wife or husband badly, desiring sex with someone not your spouse, putting down the opposite gender, encouraging someone else to end their marriage without a Bible reason, having sex before or outside of marriage, using crude words to describe sex, using pornography.

**C: You shall not steal.**

**P: Examples of sins against this commandment:** Thinking our money really belongs to us, wasting food and not taking good care of our possessions, borrowing money and not paying it back, being lazy at work, not helping our neighbor in time of need, not paying the taxes we owe, not giving back to God properly in offerings.

**C: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

**P: Examples of sins against this commandment:** Speaking about someone's sins without first going to them, gossiping about people, thinking the worst about others, telling lies and half-truths to get our way, telling others things told to us in confidence, not confronting people around us when they sin.

**C: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

**P: Examples of sins against this commandment:** Not being satisfied with our lot in life, grumbling and complaining about the people in our lives, wanting things God doesn't want us to want, wishing we had the things or the talents of people around us, having envy in our hearts, being greedy for more and more.

**P: Let us confess our sins together:**

**C and P: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner confess unto You all my sins and iniquities, with which I have ever offended You, and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray to You because of Your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, 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 God's Word announce the grace of God unto all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **THE READING OF THE PASSION ACCOUNT**

Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means, "The place of a skull." They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. They crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Now it was the third hour when they crucified him. Pilate also had a notice written and fastened on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that 'this man said, 'I am the King of the Jews.''" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took his tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it. Instead, let's cast lots to see who gets it." This was so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. So the soldiers did these things. Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there. People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" Those who were crucified with him also insulted him. In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he's the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise."

Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun was darkened. At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah!" After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!" Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" When he had said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Suddenly the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus' resurrection and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and how he cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last, they were terrified and began to glorify God, saying, "This man really was righteous. Truly this was the Son of God."

When all the groups of people who had gathered to see this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. All those who knew Jesus, and many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and who had served him, were there, watching from a distance.

Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Salome, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Since it was the Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath (because that Sabbath was a particularly important day). They asked Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who was crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other man. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out. The one who saw it has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. Indeed, these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones will be broken."a Again another Scripture says, "They will look at the one they pierced."

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathaea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews. Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the council, was a good and righteous man. He had not agreed with their plan and action. He was looking forward to the kingdom of God. He boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had been dead for a long time. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he granted the body to Joseph. Joseph bought a linen cloth, came, and took Jesus' body away. Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds.a They took Jesus' body and bound it with linen strips along with the spices, in accord with Jewish burial customs. There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified. And in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. So they laid Jesus there, because it was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was near. Joseph took the body and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. He rolled a large stone over the tomb's entrance and left. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed after Joseph, and they observed the tomb and how Jesus' body was laid there. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching where the body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate and said, "Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead.' And this last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.

Oh, darkest woe! O tears, forth flow!  
Has earth so sad a wonder?  
God the Father's only Son Now is buried yonder.

Oh, sorrow dread! God's Son is dead!  
But by his expiation  
Of our guilt upon the cross Gained for us salvation.

Lo, stained with blood, The Lamb of God,  
The Bridegroom, lies before you,  
Pouring out his life that he May to life restore you.

How blest shall be Eternally  
Who oft in faith will ponder  
Why the glorious Prince of life Should be buried yonder.

O Jesus blest, My Help and Rest,  
With tears I now entreat you:  
Make me love you to the last Till in heav'n I greet you.

**The Sermon Text--2 Corinthians 5:14b, 19a, 21**

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**SEE GOD HANGING THERE DEAD!**

- 1. It's the only way to see the world correctly**
- 2. It's the only way to see yourself correctly**

**THE LORD'S SUPPER DISTRIBUTION**

**THE GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER**

**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.**

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| 1 God was there on Calvary,<br>God the Father's only Son,<br>dying that the world might live,<br>there on Calvary.       | 2 All the world on Calvary<br>crucified the Prince of life,<br>pierced the hands of God's own Son,<br>there on Calvary. |
| 3 Sin was there on Calvary,<br>all the sins of ev'ryone,<br>laid upon God's sinless Lamb<br>there on Calvary.            | 4 Love was there on Calvary,<br>streaming from the heart of God,<br>reaching out for ev'ryone<br>there on Calvary.      |
| 5 Life was there on Calvary,<br>flowing from his wounded side,<br>spent that death itself might die<br>there on Calvary. | 6 We were there on Calvary;<br>we were pardoned, saved, set free,<br>saved to live eternally—<br>blessèd Calvary!       |

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## **THE REMOVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

### **THE STREPITUS**

*There is no Benediction. The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.*

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**PLEASE JOIN US EASTER SUNDAY MORNING TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S RESURRECTION!**

**7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service**

**9:30 a.m. Festival Service**

There will be a special Easter breakfast held in the Family Life Center  
between services on Easter Sunday.

All are invited to attend.

A free-will offering will be taken.