



**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School
Grafton, WI
April 18, 2025
1:00 p.m.**

The Triduum

The three days of Holy Week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, are the climax of the church year. Throughout the centuries, these three services were viewed as one continuous service that began on Holy Thursday and ended on Easter morning.

Part I. Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday marks the end of Lent proper and begins the Triduum. At the conclusion of the worship service, there is no blessing or benediction. Instead, the candles and communion vessels are removed. The altar is stripped, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Part II. Good Friday

Good Friday's first service is the service of the cross. This service is a meditative service focusing on the redemption of Christ, and prayer. Good Friday's second service is known as a *Tenebrae* (darkness) service. This service centers on a reflection of the Lord's crucifixion and our repentance. As the service progresses, seven candles are extinguished, one candle at a time, until only one candle remains. That candle is removed from the chancel, leaving the sanctuary in darkness. The service is closed by a loud noise called a *strepitus* that foreshadows the rending of Christ's tomb on Easter. The solitary candle is then returned to the sanctuary, anticipating the joy of Easter morning.

Part III. Easter Sunday

Easter morning is the climax to the Triduum. The service begins with the joyous cry "Christ is risen!" to which the congregation responds, "He is risen indeed!" The entire Easter morning service is a celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death and the power of the devil. That joy climaxes as the worshipper receives once again the blessing of the Lord at the conclusion of the service. The joy of Easter then continues throughout the rest of the church year.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Presiding:	Jonathan Fischer
Organist:	Bob Klug
Soloist	Sophia Heil

Worshippers may gather in silence.

“A ‘reproach’ is a conveyance of disapproval or blame. The Solemn Reproaches (also called the Improperia) were first used in the liturgy in the 800s. They are poetic renderings expressing the remonstrance of God with his people. They follow the pattern of Psalm 78, which rehearses God’s continuing acts of faithfulness and Israel’s repeated rebellion.”

O Perfect Life of Love

CW 431

Stand

Invocation and Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Merciful and everlasting God, who has not spared your only son, but delivered him up for us all that he might bear our sins upon the cross, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ, your son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Reproaches

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people!

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

CW 432 st. 3

3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan - guish;
yes, all the wrath, the woe that you in -
her - it, this I do mer - it.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people.

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

CW 432 st. 2

2 They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
with cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge you;

they give you gall to drink, they still de -
cry you; they cru - ci - fy you.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O my people!

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

CW 432 st. 5

5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness,
the sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;
we for - feit - ed our lives, yet are ac -
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved others as you command.

For this I deserve your punishment now and forever.

I am sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy.

Declaration of Grace

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

CW 432 st. 6

6 I'll think up - on your mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,
that earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;
to do your will shall be my sole en -
deav - or hence - forth for - ev - er.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

¹³See, my servant will act wisely;

he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were appalled at him—

his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being
and his form marred beyond human likeness—

¹⁵so he will sprinkle many nations,

and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see,

and what they have not heard, they will understand.

¹Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

²He grew up before him like a tender shoot,

and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by mankind,

a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴Surely he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions,

he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

¹¹After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

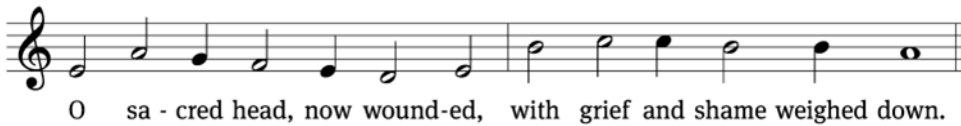
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

22A O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Psalm 22A

Refrain



Tone



My God, my God, why have you for- / saken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of / anguish?

I am a worm and / not a man,

scorned by everyone, despised by the / people.

All who see me / mock me;

they hurl insults, shaking / their heads.

“He trusts in the / LORD,” they say,

“let the LORD / rescue him.” *Refrain*

All my bones are / on display;

you lay me in the / dust of death.

A pack of villains en- / circles me;

they pierce my hands / and my feet.

They divide my clothes a- / mong them

and cast lots for my / garment.

But you, LORD, do not be / far from me.

You are my strength; come quickly to / help me.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Galatians 3:10-13

¹⁰For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” ¹²The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Upon the Cross Extended

CW 434 sts. 1, 5



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, see, world, your
5 Your cross I place be - fore me, its sav - ing



Lord sus - pend - ed; your Sav - ior yields his breath.
pow'r re - store me, sus - tain me in the test.



The Prince of life from heav - en him - self has free - ly
It will, when life is end - ing, be guid - ing and at -



giv - en to shame and blows and bit - ter death.
tend - ing my way to your e - ter - nal rest.

Gospel

John 19:17–30

¹⁷Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. ²⁰Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

²²Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

²³When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,
“They divided my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.”

So this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” ²⁷and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

²⁸Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

CW 422

Sermon

Isaiah 53:10-11

Space is provided for you to take notes during the sermon.

Bidding Prayer

Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one and help us remain faithful to your Word so that in every adversity, we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know

their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism, that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live new and holy lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one, true God and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your gospel, mercifully gather a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you, whose name we bear. We ask that you change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and faith so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our grief and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation, that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he has taught us.

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.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Distribution

Out of sincere love for the truth of God's Word and precious souls, we practice closed Communion in our congregation. This has been the practice of Christians for centuries and is thoroughly scriptural. It neither questions the faith nor judges the heart of any individual, yet expects that there be full doctrinal agreement among those who commune. For this reason, we ask that only members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) join us for the Lord's Supper today. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Fischer after the service.

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Prayer

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Were You There?

Sung by the soloist.

Dialogue of the Cross

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross, joy has come into the world.

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
**so that your ways may be known on earth
your salvation among all nations.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross, joy has come into the world.

May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
**May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross, joy has come into the world.

Brief silence

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The minister exits the chancel.

Worshippers may remain for prayer and meditation before exiting silently.

Offerings may be placed in the box in the entryway as you depart.

Acknowledgments

Good Friday: Service of Remembrance of the Cross from Christian Worship

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