



Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School
Grafton, WI
April 3, 2026
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:
Organist:

Jonathan Fischer
Bob Klug

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.”

The Power of the Cross

CW 423

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 Sacred Head, Now Wounded

CW 429 sts. 1-2



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and
2 Men mock and taunt and jeer you, they smite your



shame weighed down, now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed,
coun - te - nance, though might - y worlds shall fear you



with thorns your on - ly crown, O sa - cred head, no
and flee be - fore your glance. How pale you are with



glo - ry now from your face does shine; yet, though de -
an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn! Your eyes with



spised and go - ry, I joy to call you mine.
pain now lan - guish that once were bright as morn!

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 Sacred Head, Now Wounded

CW 429 sts. 3-4



3 Now from your cheeks has van - ished their col - or,
4 My bur - den in your pas - sion, Lord, you have



once so fair; from your red lips is ban - ished
borne for me, for it was my trans - gres - sion,



the splen - dor that was there. Grim death with cru - el
my shame, on Cal - va - ry. I cast me down be -



rig - or has robbed you of your life; thus you have
fore you; wrath is my right - ful lot. Have mer - cy,



lost your vig - or, your strength, in this sad strife.
I im - plore you; Re - deem - er, spurn me not!

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 Sacred Head, Now Wounded

CW 429 sts. 5-6



5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank you,
6 My Sav - ior, then be near me when death is



dear - est Friend, for this, your dy - ing sor - row,
at my door, and let your pres - ence cheer me;



your pit - y with - out end? O make me yours for -
for - sake me nev - er - more! When soul and bod - y



ev - er, and keep me strong and true; Lord, let me
lan - guish, O leave me not a - lone, but take a -



nev - er, nev - er out - live my love for you.
way my an - guish by vir - tue of your own!

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.

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

Zechariah 3:1-10

¹Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. ²The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”

³Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.”

Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”

⁵Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

⁶The angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua: ⁷“This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.

⁸“ ‘Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. ⁹See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

¹⁰“ ‘In that day each of you will invite your neighbor to sit under your vine and fig tree,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Stand

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

Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

CW 573

Sermon

Zechariah 3:1-10

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

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 + 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 + 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

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second and third staves form the first phrase of the hymn. The fourth and fifth staves form the second phrase. The sixth staff is a partial phrase. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

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

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