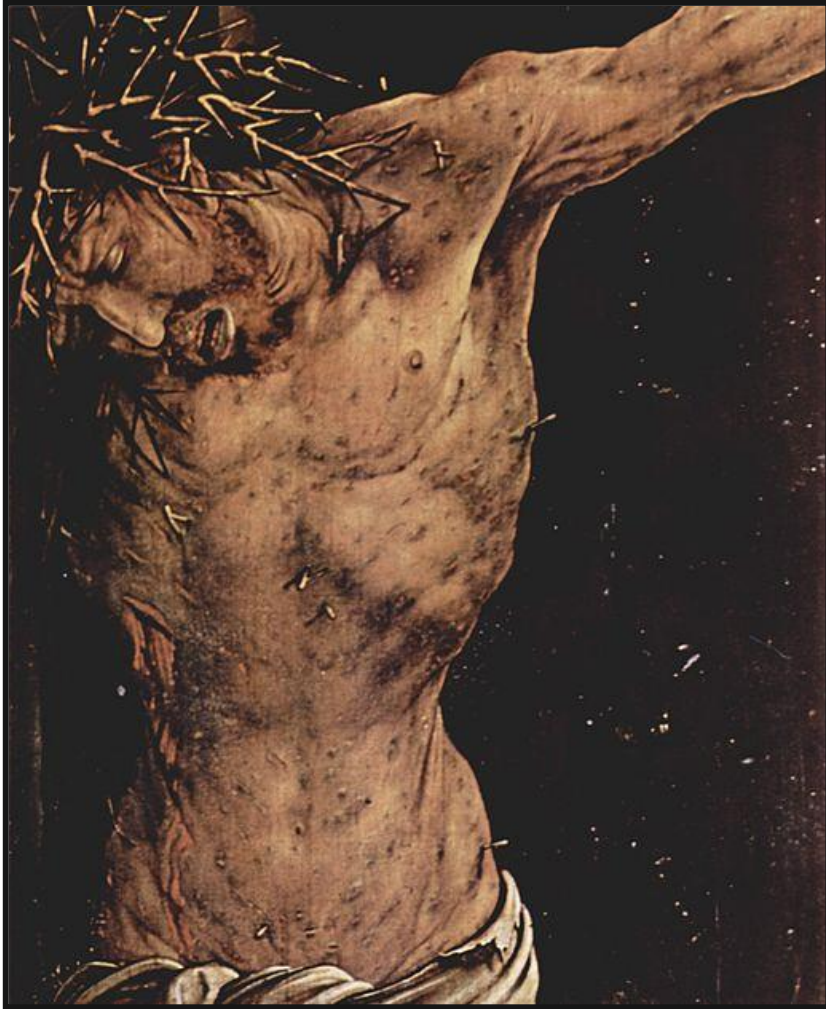


Good Friday Chief Service



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

Good Friday

by Christina Rossetti

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

*Keep the nail you received (much smaller than the spikes that pierced Jesus)
and put it in a prominent place in your home—on your desk, dresser, window sill, etc.—
as a continual reminder of how Jesus Christ died on the cross for your salvation.*

Service of the Word

for meditation on His love

The congregation and pastor enter in silence.

Stand

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this 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 the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:13–53:12

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence

Stand

COLLECT

Let us pray. Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sit

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence

Stand

COLLECT

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 440, ST. 1

**Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.**

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Sit

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus: John 18:1–11

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 449, ST. 1

**O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

Jesus before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter: John 18:12–27

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 449, ST. 2

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, and grant to me Thy grace.**

Jesus before Pilate: John 18:28–40

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 449, ST. 3

**What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.**

Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion: John 19:1–16

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 449, ST. 4

**Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.**

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If able, please stand for the remainder of the reading out of reverence for our Lord's self-sacrifice.

The Crucifixion of Jesus: John 19:16–24

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 451, ST. 1

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

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Jesus' Mother and His Death: John 19:25–30

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 451, ST.2

**Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.**

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Jesus' Side Is Pierced: John 19:31–42

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 451, STS 3–4

Ye who think of sin but lightly	Here we have a firm foundation,
Nor suppose the evil great	Here the refuge of the lost:
Here may view its nature rightly,	Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Here its guilt may estimate.	Is the name of which we boast;
Mark the sacrifice appointed,	Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
See who bears the awful load;	Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,	None shall ever be confounded
Son of Man and Son of God.	Who on Him their hope have built.

Text: Public domain

Silence

Sit

The Sermon

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 438

- 1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
"All this I gladly suffer."
- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,
The Lamb of God, our Savior,
Whom God the Father chose to send
To gain for us His favor.
"Go forth, My Son," the Father said,
"And free My children from their dread
Of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Your passion they will share
The fruit of Your salvation."
- 3 "Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
I'll bear what You command Me.
My will conforms to Your decree,
I'll do what You have asked Me."
O wondrous Love, what have You done!
The Father offers up His Son,
Desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong You are to save!
You lay the One into the grave
Who built the earth's foundation.
- 4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see
And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before Your throne,
Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
As Your own bride shall we be brought
To stand in joy beside You.

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The Bidding Prayer

Each prayer ends with the words:
... through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

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 following Sentence and Response is spoken three times.

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

O come, let us worship Him.

Sit

THE REPROACHES

[Micah 6:3–4; Jeremiah 2:6–7; Isaiah 5:4]

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.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;

God eternal, leave us not to bitter death.

O Lord, have mercy.

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.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;

God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell.

O Lord, have mercy.

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.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;

God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith.

O Lord, have mercy.

Stand

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Let us pray. We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

TUNE & TEXT: LSB 440, STS. 5–6

If my sins give me alarm	Graciously my faith renew;
And my conscience grieve me,	Help me bear my crosses,
Let Your cross my fear disarm;	Learning humbleness from You,
Peace of conscience give me.	Peace mid pain and losses.
Help me see forgiveness won	May I give You love for love!
By Your holy passion.	Hear me, O my Savior,
If for me He slays His Son,	That I may in heav'n above
God must have compassion!	Sing Your praise forever.

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Depart silently and in peace.

Ponder His great love for you

*The meditation on His love continues
with Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers at 7:00 pm,
Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at 7:00 pm,
and Divine Service for the Resurrection of Our Lord
on Easter Sunday at 10:00 am.*

Officiant: Rev. Peter Gregory
Organist: Mary Gregory

The Passion

by George Herbert

Since blood is fittest, Lord, to write
Thy sorrows in, and bloody fight;
My heart hath store; write there, where in
One box doth lie both ink and sin:

That when sin spies so many foes,
Thy whips, thy nails, thy wounds, thy woes,
All come to lodge there, sin may say,
No room for me, and fly away.

Sin being gone, oh fill the place,
And keep possession with thy grace;
Lest sin take courage and return,
And all the writings blot or burn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover Image: Detail of Christ on the Cross from *The Isenheim Altarpiece* by Matthias Grünewald (c. 1512–1515).
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Good Friday, Chief Service from Lutheran Service Book

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