

Midday Worship for Holy Week

April 1, 2026 – 12 Noon



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer before Worship

Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts and minds to you that we may come before you, and worship you in spirit and in truth. Help us to follow where you are leading in this Lenten season: to the cross and to resurrection. Amen.



Carillon

Selections for the Lenten Season

Welcome

P Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,

G have mercy and hear us.

G 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.

G I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents over disaster.**

(Joel 2:13)

P Jesus said: If anyone would come after me,

C **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** *(Matthew 16:24)*

P Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

C **He was bruised for our iniquities.**

(Isaiah 53:5)

P Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: The Death of Jesus

Matthew 27:27-61

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him

now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Hymn

"O Perfect Life of Love" (LSB 452)



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;
4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul
5 In per - fect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.
O all - a - ton - ing Sac - ri - fice, I cling by faith to Thee.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591
Text and tune: Public domain

Meditation

Prayer

Other petitions may be offered, concluding with this prayer:

P Gracious Lord Jesus, who at this hour bore our sins in your own body on the tree of the cross so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness, have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death. Grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and by your grace eternal glory in the life to come, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Dismissal

Post-Communion Prayer

L Let us pray:

Merciful God, we thank you for feeding us with your Son's Body and Blood in this holy Supper. Accompany our journey through these forty days of Lent. Renew in us the gift of Baptism that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

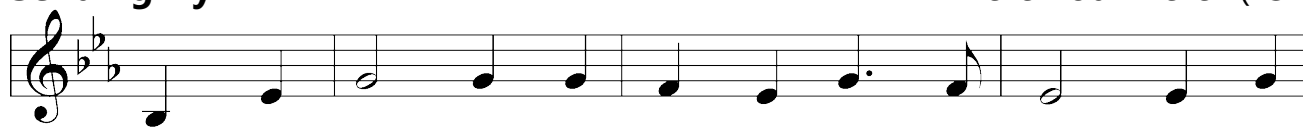
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Were You There" (LSB 456)



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...



Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.
Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.
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 when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text and tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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2026 Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

NOTE: livestreaming available for service times with an *

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday

7:00PM* - Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
Anniversary of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

12 Noon – Stations of the Cross – No Communion
7:00PM* - Passiontide Lessons and Carols - No Communion
The most solemn day of the Christian year gives thanks to God for the life-giving death of Jesus upon the tree of the cross.

Saturday, April 4 - Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter

7:00PM*- Holy Communion
One of the most beautiful and moving services of the entire year. We light the new fire of Easter outside, process into the darkened sanctuary for the service of readings, celebrate Holy Baptism, and conclude with receiving the risen Savior in the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, April 5 - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday

8:00AM & 10:30AM* -Holy Communion

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Our joy at Jesus' victory of sin, death, and the grave overflows on this blessed

Easter morning! A brass ensemble will provide glorious music to lead us in singing praises to our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Between the worship services, Easter breakfast will be offered as well as egg hunts for children.

For Easter Sunday, remember to bring spring flowers to "flower" the cross in the church entrance.



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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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