

Helmar Lutheran

Newark, IL
April 3, 2026
Good Friday

Welcome and Prayer

Hymn: "Calvary Covers It All"

First Word: "Father Forgive Them" Luke 23:34 (Jacob Mathre)

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Second Word: "Today You Shall Be With Me In Paradise" Luke 23:43 (Mac McKenna)

Bell Choir: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Third Word: "Woman Behold Your Son..." John 19:26, 27 (Tom Mathre)

Hymn: "Were You There?"

Fourth Word: "Why Have You Forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46 (Jim Osmond)

Hymn: "Hallelujah, What a Savior"

Fifth Word: "I Thirst" John 19:28 (Tyler Perkins)

Mixed Quartet: "At Calvary" arr. Sharon McKanna

Sixth Word: "It is Finished" John 19:30 (Phil Haugen)

Hymn: "The Old Rugged Cross"

Seventh Word: "Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit" Luke 23:46 (Chad Christian)

Hymn: "Room at the Cross for You"

The Closing Invitation to Prayer

Thank you to all our speakers and musicians tonight.

Resurrection Celebration (Easter Service) is at 10 am this coming Sunday.

Crown of Thorns

In Genesis 3:17, the ground that Adam tends is cursed to yield thorns and thistles instead of life-giving fruit. From that point forward Creation itself bears the burden of Man's sin.

Whether you farm hundreds of acres or just grow a pot of geraniums in the window, you know the frustration of weeds. It doesn't seem to matter what we engineer, or how much we remove them mechanically or chemically. The invasion of thistles and burdock never stops.

Because it's not an agriculture problem. It's a sin problem. The earth has suffered a dramatic shift in its very nature caused by our rebellion against God. *We* did that.

The curse the ground endures is only one result of our fall. Pain, disease, war, and death are all deserved consequences of Mankind's disobedience. And there is nothing we can do about it.

But God...

For some unfathomable reason, God loves us and demonstrated that love by sending His only Son to die on the cross in our place. A death that was foreshadowed in the ram Abraham sacrificed in place of his son Isaac. A ram provided by God and ensnared in thorns.

The blood Jesus shed pays the price for our transgression and makes us new. The Father sees us through the sacrifice of Christ and judges us clean. His resurrection, that we will celebrate on Sunday (shh, spoilers!), guarantees the future resurrection of all those who belong to Him.

The crown of thorns is a physical symbol of the curse. Placed on Christ's brow it points our gaze back to the garden and the results of sin. But it also points us forward to when the Son of God's victory comes full circle and all of Creation is redeemed from that curse.

“Praise the Lord!

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Who can speak of the mighty deeds of the Lord,

Or can show forth all His praise?”

Psalm 106:1,2

Mrs Chad Christian

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