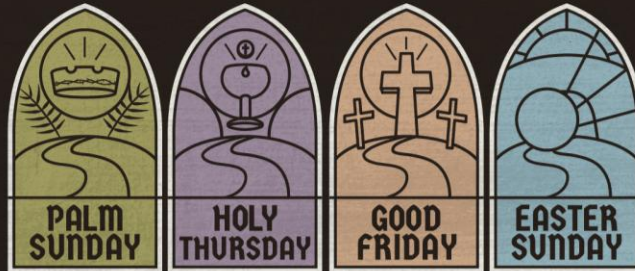




# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 3, 2026 – Good Friday A



**HOLY WEEK**  
LOOK UP

## To Find the Source of Salvation

**Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Restrooms and a drinking fountain** are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary. We have **personal hearing devices**. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service. If you are a parent with young children, we want you to know that we love having children worship with us since worship includes them, too. At the same time, we know that children sometimes like to make their presence known in spite of the best efforts to keep them quiet. For your convenience and in consideration of those seated near you, we have a **Family Room** located through the door in the back of the Fellowship Hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service. **Busy bags** are also available near the central sanctuary doors.

**Prayer before worship:** Lord, as we spend this time in reflection and repentance, make us aware of our sins, and lead us to a complete dependence on your grace and mercy in Christ. Help us change our sinful lives so that we may be effective witnesses to the power of your work for us. Amen.

*Please gather in silence and remain seated.  
During the service the lights will be dimmed. For those requiring more light,  
please sit near the sconces, which will remain lit during the whole service.  
The service will begin with the lighting of the seven candles.*

## Devotion

Isaiah 53:6

<sup>6</sup>We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

## Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 430 st. 1

*Christ's prophetic role is proved in his rejection and suffering as well as in his Word.*

1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, see him dy-ing on the  
tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re-ject-ed; yes, my  
soul, 'tis he, 'tis he. 'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed  
Proph-et, Da-vid's son, yet Da-vid's Lord; proofs I  
see suf-fi-cient of it: 'tis the true and faith-ful Word.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn, 1850

Text and tune: Public domain

## Confession

P: Behold the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

**C: Come, let us worship.**

P: The Lord says, "My people, what have I done do you? How have I offended you? Answer me! Through baptism I led you from slavery to freedom, but you led your Savior to death."

**C: Holy God, merciful and just, have mercy on us.**

P: "I planted you as my fairest vineyard, I grafted you into the one true Vine, I gave you the water of life and salvation, but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink in my thirst."

**C: Holy God, merciful and just, have mercy on us.**

P: "I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns. I raised you up to newness of life, but you raise me high upon a cross."

**C: Holy God, merciful and just, have mercy on us.**

P: "I give you heaven, yet you complain about what you think you lack. I give you eternity, yet you worry about this life. You suffer and then blame me, though I have proven my love! Should I not take everything from you?"

**C: Holy God, merciful and just, have mercy on us.**

P: "What more could I have done for you? I gave you my peace and my truth, but you fight with each other. You cause pain to those I love, and you dismiss the one I chose to lead you. Should my anger not burn? Should I not destroy you?"

**C: Holy God, merciful and just, have mercy on us.**

P: "I come as your brother and sister: hungry, yet you give me no food; thirsty, yet you give me no drink; a stranger, yet you do not welcome me in; naked, yet you do not clothe me; sick and in prison, and yet you do not visit me."

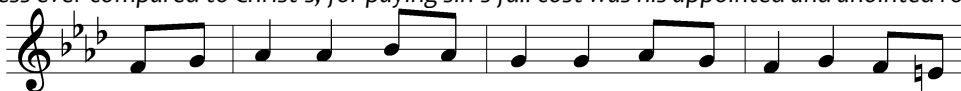
**C: Holy God, merciful and just, have mercy on us.**

*Silence for personal meditation, reflection, and confession.*

## Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 430 sts. 2-3

No distress ever compared to Christ's, for paying sin's full cost was his appointed and anointed role.



2 Tell me, as you hear him groan-ing, was there ev - er grief like  
3 If you think of sin but light - ly nor sup - pose the e - vil



his, friends through fear his cause dis - own - ing, foes in -  
great, here you see its na - ture right - ly, here its



sult - ing his dis - tress? Man - y hands were raised to  
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -



wound him, none would in - ter - vene to save; but the  
point - ed, see who bears the aw - ful load; 'tis the



deep - est stroke that pierced him was the stroke that jus - tice gave.  
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn, 1850

Text and tune: Public domain

## Absolution

P: The Lord also says, "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel: I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

**C: Amen.**

P: Behold the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

**C: Come, let us worship.**

## Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 430 st. 4

*On Christ's bloody work is our firm foundation, the sacrifice to cancel guilt, on whom our hope is built.*

4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, here the ref - uge of the  
lost: Christ, the rock of our sal - va - tion, is the  
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners  
wound - ed, sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall  
ev - er be con - found - ed who on him their hope have built.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn, 1850

Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## Man of Sorrows

*A cantor will lead the singing of this song. The final line may be repeated.*

Man of sorrows, Lamb of God by his own betrayed.  
The sin of man and wrath of God has been on Jesus laid.  
Silent as he stood accused, beaten, mocked, and scorned,  
bowing to the Father's will he took a crown of thorns.  
Oh, that rugged cross my salvation where your love poured out over me.  
Now my soul cries out hallelujah, praise and honor unto thee.  
Sent of heaven God's own Son to purchase and redeem,  
and reconcile the very ones who nailed him to that tree.  
Oh, that rugged cross my salvation where your love poured out over me.  
Now my soul cries out hallelujah, praise and honor unto thee.  
See the stone is rolled away behold the empty tomb.  
Hallelujah, God be praised, he's risen from the grave.  
Oh, that rugged cross my salvation where your love poured out over me.  
Now my soul cries out hallelujah, praise and honor unto thee.

## First Word

*Luke 23:32-34*

<sup>32</sup>Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

P: Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me;

**C: They pierce my hands and my feet.**

*Psalm 22:16*

P: They divide my garments among them

**C: and cast lots for my clothing.**

*Psalm 22:18*

P: He bore the sin of many,

**C: and made intercession for the transgressors.**

*Isaiah 53:12*

## The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 1

At the forefront of our Savior's mind was forgiveness, even as he hung in devastating pain on a tree.

1 Their nails were fresh - ly driv - en, their ha - tred  
clear - ly shown, when, "Let them be for - giv - en,"  
was heard at heav - en's throne. Your en - e - mies, O  
Je - sus, you loved be - yond de - gree, a love so  
pure and pre - cious it e - ven par - doned me.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1546-1612

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P: Gracious Savior, you did not strike back with revenge against your enemies as they ridiculed and crucified you but prayed for their forgiveness. In your compassion, pardon us for our secret sins and sins we do not discern, and enlighten us to know and do your will.

**C: Amen.**

*The first candle is extinguished. Please observe a brief moment of silence.*



**Father, forgive them.**

## Second Word

Luke 23:35-43

<sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup>and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

<sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup>But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup>Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

P: All who see me mock me;

**C: They hurl insults, shaking their heads.**

*Psalm 22:7*

P: “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him.

**C: Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”**

*Psalm 22:8*

P: Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people.

**C: Come to my aid when you save them.**

*Psalm 106:4*

## The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 2

By declaration of our King, heaven is the immediate home for the souls of all who die in him.

2 On you, my King, de - pend - ing, I'm rid of  
all my sins! My fi - nal day here end - ing,  
my first in heav'n be - gins. As you have tru - ly  
spo - ken, in par - a - dise I'll be, with you in  
bliss un - bro - ken— you will re - mem - ber me.

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**P:** Mighty Redeemer, remember us as we walk through the darkest valleys of life and realize that our time on earth is ending. Stay close to us when we feel the pain and loneliness of dying and take away our fears with your certain promise of paradise.

**C: Amen.**

*The second candle is extinguished. Please observe a brief moment of silence.*



**Today you will be with  
me in Paradise.**

### Third Word

*John 19:25–27*

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

P: This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,

**C: and to be a sign that will be spoken against,**

P: so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.

**C: And a sword will pierce your own soul too.**

*Luke 2:34-35*

P: Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?

**C: Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.**

*Matthew 12:48, 50*



**Behold, your mother.**

## The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 3

*Still honoring his grieving mother as he bled and died, Jesus made us members of his family forever.*

3 A Sav - ior like no oth - er, all self - con -  
cern de - nied, you served your griev - ing moth - er  
while you were cru - ci - fied. My sin had made me  
filth - y, but you, the per - fect child, were des - ig -  
nat - ed guilt - y, and I am rec - on - ciled.

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P: Precious Jesus, you consider us friends and care about the needs of our bodies and souls. Keep us in your care as we walk the road of life and provide the blessings we need to gain safety, contentment, and joy in your service.

**C: Amen.**

*The third candle is extinguished. Please observe a brief moment of silence.*

## Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45, 46

<sup>45</sup>From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

<sup>46</sup>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C: Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?** *Psalm 22:1*

P: My God, I cry out by day but you do not answer,

**C: by night, but I find no rest.** *Psalm 22:2*

P: “In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “I will make the sun go down at noon

**C: and darken the earth in broad daylight.”** *Amos 8:9*



**My God, My God,  
why have You forsaken Me?**

## The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 4

He who had been in perfect unity with the Father for eternity faced God's wrath to join us to him forever.

4 Con - demned, cut off, for - sak - en, out - side the  
Fa - ther's care, by ter - ror o - ver - tak - en,  
no ear would hear your prayer. On you God's wrath was  
vent - ed, on you his fu - ry fell, when, on the  
cross tor - ment - ed, you took my place in hell.

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**P:** Lord Jesus, you endured the horrific penalty of our sins as your Father turned his face from you on the cross. Compel us to see in your sacrifice the dreadful nature of sin and call us to acknowledge the amazing depth of your love. Overcome our shame, dear Savior, and give us grateful faith.

**C: Amen.**

*The fourth candle is extinguished. Please observe a brief moment of silence.*

## **Fifth Word**

*John 19:28, 29*

<sup>28</sup>After this, when he knew that all things necessary for the Scripture to be fulfilled had now been accomplished, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup>A 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.

P: My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

**C: you lay me in the dust of death.**

*Psalm 22:15*

P: I am worn out calling for help;

**C: my throat is parched.**

*Psalm 69:3*

P: They put gall in my food

**C: and gave me vinegar for my thirst.**

*Psalm 69:21*



**I thirst.**

## The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 5

*His hunger in the wilderness and his thirst now are deep understatement... to give us living water forever.*

5 My Lord, in death's dark val - ley, both soul and  
bod - y drained, one drink would help you ral - ly  
what lit - tle strength re - mained to raise your voice in  
vic - t'ry, to sound your foe's de - feat— the high - est  
point in his - t'ry— my res - cue was com - plete.

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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P: Dear Jesus, as our brother on earth you endured the agony of pain that besieged your body when your sacrifice was complete. Knowing our experiences, hover over us with your care and compassion when our bodies and hearts are hurting. Provide us with strength that we may confess you with confidence and power.

**C: Amen.**

*The fifth candle is extinguished. Please observe a brief moment of silence.*

## Sixth Word

*John 19:30*

<sup>30</sup>When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P: On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

**C: to cleanse them from sin and impurity.**

*Zechariah 13:1*

P: Because of the blood of my covenant with you,

**C: I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.**

*Zechariah 9:11*

P: I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

**C: I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**

*Zechariah 3:9*

*Jeremiah 31:34*



**It is finished.**

## The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 6

Undoing the very wages of sin, Jesus faced death—completely undeserving—and paid its price in full.

6 Though sin's most le - thal wa - ges to me, O  
Christ, were due, the guilt of all the a - ges  
came crash - ing down on you. Most sure - ly, "It is  
fin - ished"—my debt is ful - ly paid; my joy is  
un - di - min - ished; my heart is un - a - fraid.

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P: Gracious Redeemer, you paid the full price for our redemption and have released us forever from the hold of Satan, the power of sin, and the fear of death. Protect us from the devil's claim that we need to do more and from the accusation of our consciences that we have not done enough. Lead us to place our entire confidence in you and to live our lives secure in your grace.

**C: Amen.**

*The sixth candle is extinguished. Please observe a brief moment of silence.*

## Seventh Word

*Luke 23:44-46*

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

<sup>46</sup>Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

P: Into your hands I commit my spirit;

**C: deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.**

*Psalm 31:5*

P: He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;

**C: he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.** *Ps. 22:24*

P: He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.

**C: He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.** *Isaiah 53:12*



**Father, into Your hands  
I commit My spirit.**

## The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 7

“Commended to the Father’s hands” is the status we all live under now, thanks to the hands of the Son.

7 My death will be tri - um - phant no mat - ter  
how I die; Lord Je - sus, in that in - stant  
es - cort my soul on high in - to my Fa - ther's  
keep - ing, all - blame - less and all - blest, like wak - ing  
up from sleep - ing, his hands my place of rest.

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**P:** Loving Savior, at the moment of your death you gave yourself into the loving hands of your Father. As we close our eyes in death, lead us to commit our bodies and souls to him who has summoned us by name and made us his own because of you and your love. Then, we pray, let us depart in peace.

**C: Amen.**

*The seventh candle is extinguished. Please observe a brief moment of silence.*

## Prayer

**P:** Jesus, our Savior, in life you came to be one with us, in death you paid the price we owed, in your burial you made your tomb the place where our death is now buried. As we contemplate the consequences we face as sinners in a sinful world, we thank and praise you that eternal death will never be one of those consequences. Help us find godly sorrow over our sins that leads us to repentance and then comfort us with the peace that comes from your victory over all our foes, proven on Easter morning.

**C: Amen.**

## Everything Would Change

Dave Goddard

Imagine walking in the Garden the day Adam and Eve would fall and listening to the words of a serpent, telling them they would know it all. It will be on that day that everything would change. Everything would change. Adam and Eve for the first time will feel shame, and a promise will be made that everything would change.

Imagine if you saw Noah charged by God to build an ark, knowing the clouds will roll in and turning the world he knows dark. It will soon begin to rain, and everything would change.

Imagine standing on a mountain when Moses receives those stones as a guide to lead his people who wait for him down below. But a golden calf they will make, and everything would change. Everything would change. Sin and death will cause pain, but God's promise will remain the same: that everything would change.

Imagine being in another garden next to Jesus, praying for the lost, witnessing him be taken and nailed to a wooden cross. He will call upon his Father's name, and everything would change. Everything will change. All believers will be saved! To God we will praise his Name! And it will be on Judgment Day that everything would change. Imagine if you were in heaven...

## Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*After the Lord's prayer the final candle will be removed from the sanctuary and the **strepitus** is heard—a loud noise symbolizing the closing of the tomb. The final candle is returned to the sanctuary, lit again to signify the promises of resurrection hope Christ gave for this dark time.*

*You may remain for a time of silent meditation and prayer.*

*Please be quiet as you leave the sanctuary to be respectful of the solemnity of others.*

*The service will conclude on Easter Sunday morning.*

**Preacher:** Timothy Rosenow

**Liturgist:** James Saatkamp

**Organist/Pianist:** Cindy Lendt

**Guitar/Soloist:** Dave Goddard

**A/V:** Bill Hartman

## Acknowledgments

A Service of the Seven Words from the Cross from Christian Worship

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

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