Good Friday Tenebrae Service

3 April 2026



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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Pastor: Thomas Mosbo

Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

P: Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Reading: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

Meditation

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

(With responses from Psalm 22)

I - Jesus is betrayed and arrested

Reading: John 18:1-12

Response

A: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
**C: My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**
A: Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
**C: Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.**
A: They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

Prayer

A: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

A brief silence.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn # 342: There in God's Garden - verses 1-3

The first candle is extinguished.

II - Peter denies Jesus; Jesus is questioned

Reading: John 18:13-24

Response

A: But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.

**C: All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.**

A: "Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him."

**C: Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother's breast.**

A: I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

Prayer

A: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

A brief silence.

P: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn # 342: There in God's Garden - verses 4-6

The second candle is extinguished.

III - Peter denies Jesus again; Jesus before Pilate

Reading: John 18:25-40

Response

A: Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

C: Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

A: They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.

C: I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

A: My strength is dried up like a potsherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

C: Packs of dogs close me in,
a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.

A: I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

Prayer

A: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

A brief silence.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn # 349: Ah, Holy Jesus - verses 1-2

The third candle is extinguished.

IV - Jesus is delivered to be crucified

Reading: John 19:1-16a

Response

A: They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.

C: But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

A: Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

C: Save me from the lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

A: I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

Prayer

A: Let us pray for the holy church throughout the world.

A brief silence.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to presevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn # 349: Ah, Holy Jesus - verses 3-5

The fourth candle is extinguished.

V - The crucifixion

Reading: John 19:16b-24

Response

A: You who fear the LORD, give praise!
All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD,
all you offspring of Israel.

C: For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor
in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

A: From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts live forever!

Prayer

A: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

A brief silence.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn # 338: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

The fifth candle is extinguished.

VI - The death of Jesus

Reading: John 19:25-30

Response

A: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

A: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

C: all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

Prayer

A: Let us pray for those in need.

A brief silence.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn # 803: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The sixth candle is extinguished.

VII - The burial of Jesus

Reading: John 19:31-42

Response

A: Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

C: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!".

Prayer

A: Let us pray for God's creation.

A brief silence.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn # 351: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

The seventh candle is extinguished.

Prayer

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

Whispered:

C: 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.

All depart in silence.

Easter Sunrise Service is at 7:00 AM, 5 April at Good Shepherd

Easter Communion Service is at 9:30 AM, 5 April at Good Shepherd