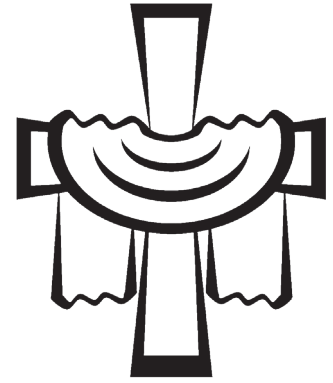


Good Friday

April 18, 2025

Good Friday (Year C)

The solemnity and reality of Good Friday can affect us deeply as we get in touch with our own sinfulness and culpability in Jesus' suffering and death. Knowing that his death was drawing near he uttered, "I thirst." When he received his last sip of sour wine he proclaimed, "It is finished." Indeed it seemed as if darkness had won, that death was the last word, but even in the dark God continued to act.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

The Suffering Servant

The prophet Isaiah foreshadowed the coming of the Messiah and the way he would be treated as he described a faithful "suffering servant." This one whom he called "a man of sorrows," would know human grief and betrayal. This one would be pierced for our sin and crushed because of human disobedience.

Psalm 22

Scorned and Mocked

The psalmist cried out in agony asking God why he had forsaken his servant. Even so, the singer praised God calling him holy. The psalmist's hope in the face of certain destruction is the character of God who rescued Israel from death and saved them from shame. Calling himself a "worm" and "no man" the psalmist expressed his deep despair and unworthiness in the face of the Creator.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

Sympathetic High Priest

The author of Hebrews recounted that Jesus, who knew no sin, had fully experienced temptation. Because of this he knows what it is like to be tested and tried, and yet he was perfect in that testing. We can have confidence through him, knowing that we are not misunderstood by our Lord, our Great High Priest.

Gospel Lesson: John 18:1—19:42

Jesus is Arrested, Tried, and Killed

John tells his version of the Passion of Jesus Christ from the moment in the garden where he was arrested, the subsequent trial, rejection by the crowds, and crucifixion with his mother and some friends nearby watching him suffer.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

- The liturgical color is black or no paraments at all.
- If you want to print the full texts for Good Friday, you can find both a large insert and small insert (text size) on SOWeR in the middle column of links.
- Consider reading the Passion Story in chorale form. You can find this on SOWeR on the Seasonal page for Lent, along with other resources for the day.
- Consider only using candlelight for the Good Friday service. When the sun sets it will likely be dark but with verbal prompts from the worship leaders it can be accomplished without worshipers relying on the bulletin at that point.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth	105	---	438	340	135	135
Were You There?	92	---	456	353	147	147
Beneath the Cross of Jesus	107	---	---	338	142	142
Ah, Holy Jesus	123	---	---	349	133	133
Go to Dark Gethsemane	109	---	436	347	145	145
Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?	98	---	437	337	143	143
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded	116	---	450	351	149	149
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	482	---	425	803	132	132
Christ the Life of All the Living	97	---	420	339	218	218
Abide With Me	272	878	629	62	---	web

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home, and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

For God So Loved the World
(CCLI# 11799)
All the Riches of His Grace
(CCLI# 144288)
In Christ Alone
(CCLI# 3350395)
How Deep the Father's Love For Us
(CCLI# 1558110)
Jesus Messiah
(CCLI# 5183443)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.