



# GOOD *Friday*

When he had  
received the drink,  
*Jesus said,*  
“It is finished.”

With that, he  
bowed his head  
and gave up  
his spirit.

John 19:30, NIV



## Good Friday

April 3, 2026

*Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.*

### SILENCE AND MEDITATION

*We begin our liturgy as we ended the Maundy Thursday Liturgy – in silence. What was begun then continues this day as we journey with our Savior from the Last Supper, the stripping and humiliation, to the cross and tomb.*

*Silence is kept as the people gather.*

*Please remain seated throughout the service.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

### HYMN

**Go To Dark Gethsemane**

ELW 347

### THE GOSPEL

**John 18:1 - 19:42**

M: *On Good Friday, the story of Jesus' passion—from his arrest to his burial—is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.*

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.<sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples.<sup>3</sup> So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"

<sup>5</sup> They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.<sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground.<sup>7</sup> Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go."<sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.<sup>11</sup> Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

<sup>12</sup> So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.<sup>13</sup> First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.<sup>14</sup> Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

<sup>15</sup> Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,<sup>16</sup> but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in.<sup>17</sup> The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."<sup>18</sup> Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup> Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.<sup>20</sup> Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret."<sup>21</sup> Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said."<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?"<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"<sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." <sup>26</sup> One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" <sup>27</sup> Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

<sup>28</sup> Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup> They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." <sup>31</sup> Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup> (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup> Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. <sup>39</sup> But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup> They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a rebel.

<sup>19:1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. <sup>4</sup> Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." <sup>5</sup> So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" <sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." <sup>7</sup> The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

<sup>8</sup> Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup> He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." <sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" <sup>15</sup> They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." <sup>16</sup> Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup> and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup> Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

<sup>21</sup> Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." <sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."

<sup>25</sup> And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup> (He who saw this has testified so that you also may continue to believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup> These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." <sup>37</sup> And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

<sup>38</sup> After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup> They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup> And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*Silence for prayer and meditation.*

SERMON

Minister Marcia Buchs

HYMN

***Were You There?*** vs 1-4

ELW 353

THE BIDDING

M: Let us pray, sisters and brothers, for the holy Church of God throughout the world...

*The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence. At the conclusion of each prayer "...through Christ our Lord," the congregation responds* **C: Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

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*A cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly.  
The congregation stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward  
and may follow it to the front of the sanctuary, gathering together.*

M: Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

*This dialogue may be repeated*

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. It contains a vocal line with lyrics. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a piano accompaniment line.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of musical notation is identical in structure to the first, featuring a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment line in the lower staff, both in the same key signature and time signature.

*All will be ushered out with the opportunity to reverence the cross prior to leaving in silence.*