



FAITH Lutheran Church

a heart from God, a heart for others, a place for you

The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us

*Good Friday Service
April 18, 2025; 5 p.m.*

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AS WE GATHER

In this Lenten season we have considered all the works of our Lord's hand contrasted with the works of our hands. His hands created us. At His hands, the devil and his demons are defeated and put in their place. His are the careful, gentle yet strong hands of a Great Physician bringing healing not only of sickness and injury but the ultimate healing of raising us from death itself. To this day the hand of the Lord cares for us and feeds us with spiritual nourishment and life. How different are the works of our hands, unable to grasp what we need the most: the help and mercy and grace of God. In the most mysterious way, it was our hands that nailed His hands to the cross, and it was our sin that caused His grief, sorrow, and bitter suffering and death. Yet in those nail-pierced hands was the power to take our sin away and give into our hands forgiveness, life, and salvation. We caused His death. His death gives us life. Without His death, today there can be no Easter resurrection. It all comes down to this: Christ crucified for the life of the world. Without His death there can be no salvation. Let us contemplate His death at our hands that we may receive eternal life from His hands.

**** SERVICE OF THE WORD ****

(All enter the church in silence.)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(Read responsively)

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

- L *The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second and fifty-third chapters.*

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall He sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

- C **Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

- L *For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.*

- C **He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

- L *He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. By oppression and judgement, He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth.*

- C Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for sin, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.**
- L Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.*
- C Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.**
- L This is the Word of the Lord.*
- C Thanks be to God.**
- P Let us pray. Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.*
- C Amen.**

PSALM

Psalm 31

- P In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;*
- C let me never be put to shame; in Your righteousness deliver me!**
- P Incline Your ear to me;*
- C rescue me speedily!**
- P Be a rock of refuge for me,*
- C a strong fortress to save me!**
- P For You are my rock and my fortress;*
- C and for Your name's sake You lead me and guide me;**
- P You take me out of the net they have hidden for me,*

C for You are my refuge.

P Into Your hand I commit my spirit;

C You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

P I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,

C but I trust in the LORD.

P I will rejoice and be glad in Your steadfast love,

C because You have seen my affliction; You have known the distress of my soul,

P and You have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;

C You have set my feet in a broad place.

P Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

C my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.

P For my life is spent with sorrow,

C and my years with sighing;

P my strength fails because of my iniquity,

C and my bones waste away.

P Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,

C especially to my neighbors,

P and an object of dread to my acquaintances;

C those who see me in the street flee from me.

P I have been forgotten like one who is dead;

C I have become like a broken vessel.

P For I hear the whispering of many—

C terror on every side!—

P as they scheme together against me,

C as they plot to take my life.

P But I trust in You, O LORD;

C I say, "You are my God."

P My times are in Your hand;

C rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!
P Make Your face shine on Your servant;
C save me in Your steadfast love!
P O LORD, let me not be put to shame,
C for I call upon You;
P let the wicked be put to shame;
C let them go silently to Sheol.
P Let the lying lips be mute,
C which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and contempt.
P Oh, how abundant is Your goodness,
C which You have stored up for those who fear You
P and worked for those who take refuge in You,
C in the sight of the children of mankind!
P In the cover of Your presence You hide them
C from the plots of men;
P You store them in Your shelter
C from the strife of tongues.
P Blessed be the LORD,
C for He has wondrously shown His steadfast love to me when I was in
a besieged city.
P I had said in my alarm,
C "I am cut off from Your sight."
P But You heard the voice of my pleas for mercy
C when I cried to You for help.
P Love the LORD, all you His saints!
C The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who
acts in pride.
P Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
C all you who wait for the LORD!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"You Are There" (by Patti Drennan)

Chancel Choir

EPISTLE

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

L *The Epistle is from Hebrews, the fourth and fifth chapters.*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

P *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

P *Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C **Amen.**

**** THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ****

HYMN

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

LSB 440:1

P *The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.*

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

John 18:1–11

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. So He asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?"

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450:1

Jesus before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter

John 18:12–27

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said." When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how You answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?" Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants 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?" Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450:2

Jesus before Pilate

John 18:28–40

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "**If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you.**" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "**It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.**" This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of

this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world.” Then Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

*After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in Him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” They cried out again, **“Not this man, but Barabbas!”** Now Barabbas was a robber.*

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

LSB 450:3

Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion

John 19:1–16a

*Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, **“Crucify Him, Crucify Him!”** Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” The Jews answered him, **“We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God.”** When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, “You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin.”*

*From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, **“If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself***

a king opposes Caesar." So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, **"Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!"** Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, **"We have no king but Caesar."** So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450:4

The Crucifixion of Jesus

John 19:16b–24

So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, **"Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"** Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things.

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450:5

Jesus' Mother and His Death

John 19:25–30

Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the

disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. Then Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450:6

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

John 19:31–42

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They will look on Him whom they have pierced."

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

HYMN
(Silence)

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

LSB 450:7

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Saw a Man Hanging on a Tree”

Gloria Schultz

SERMON

The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Were You There?”

Ed Stern & Vicki Mueller

BIDDING PRAYER

P *Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the church, and for all the people of God: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole Body of the church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:*

O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially Donald Trump, our president; the Congress of the United States; Ronald DeSantis, our governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P *Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C Amen.

P *Let us pray for all who are outside the church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error; call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and gather them into His family, the church: Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C Amen.

P *Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's Holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:
Almighty and everlasting God, King of glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:*

O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P *Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:*

O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the

earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

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

**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.

HYMN

“When I Survey the Wonderful Cross”

LSB 425

ADORATION OF CHRIST

P We adore You, O Lord, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection.

C For behold, by the wood of Your cross, joy has come into all the world.

P God be merciful to us and bless us,

C and cause His face to shine upon us and have mercy upon us.

P We adore You, O Lord, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection.

C For behold, by the wood of Your cross joy has come into all the world.

RESPONSORIAL

P *Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,*

C **Be for all the noblest tree;**

P *None in foliage, none in blossom,*

C **None in fruit thine equal be;**

P *Symbol of the world's redemption,*

C **For the weight that hung on thee!**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P *Let us pray. O God, by Your mercy this day, You have shown us that the suffering and death of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, was the result of the work of our hands by our sin. Nevertheless, Your almighty arm has turned our rebellion into a victory of Your own design, for "upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed." As Your will prospered in His nail-pierced hands, so now is Your will done as we praise and thank You for the forgiveness He brings to us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C **Amen.**

CLOSING OF THE TOMB

(All leave in silence.)



Following the Good Friday Service, is a good time to contemplate the work that Jesus has accomplished throughout His Passion. One way to do this is to follow the Stations of the Cross, gospel readings which let us read along with our Savior as He goes from Gethsemane, to the cross, to the tomb. We pray you might be blessed as you follow the story of His Passion.

Station 1: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Luke 22:39-46

Jesus shows in this hour that He is both God and man: God, because He is willing to suffer for the sake of humanity; man, because He asks, "Father, if you are willing, let this cup pass from me." Jesus graciously accepts the mission His Heavenly Father gives Him, beginning even at this hour to shed His blood for the salvation of the world.

Station 2: Jesus Betrayed by Judas and Arrested

Luke 22:47-53

Even in the hour of His betrayal by His close friend, Jesus is willing to reach out to those who would be His enemies: He heals the man whose ear is cut off. Even as He accomplishes this miracle, He continues to remain dedicated to His task of shouldering the sins of the world for our salvation.

Station 3: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

Luke 22:66-71

Jesus is put on trial for the charge of blasphemy--whether or not He claims to be God. His answer to the question, "Are you the Son of God, then?" provides confirmation of what His accusers seek: "You say that I am." While the religious leaders do not acknowledge it, nor can they believe it, it is true: Jesus is God in human flesh, come to suffer for the sake of His people.

Station 4: Jesus is Denied by Peter

Luke 22:54-62

Though he had boldly stated that he would never deny Jesus, Peter-- beset by fear for his life--quickly denies his Lord three times. Though we too are often glad to claim the love of Christ, our willingness to publicly declare our allegiance to Him--even to the point of death--is all too often wavering or colored by our own worldly allegiances. Jesus' all-knowing look at Peter is the same look into our own sinful soul, which causes us to cry out: "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner!"

Station 5: Jesus Is Judged by Pilate

Luke 23:13-25

Jesus is delivered to Pontius Pilate for trial. Though he tries to release Jesus, the religious leaders nonetheless implore Pilate to "Crucify Him!" While Pilate has the greater authority, he nonetheless gives in to their request, and Jesus is sentenced to die. In an interesting twist, a murderer (Barabbas) is granted forgiveness he doesn't deserve, while the innocent Son of God will die in his place. Barabbas gives us a picture of what each person will receive through the crucifixion and death of Jesus on the cross.

Station 6: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

Luke 22:63-65

Even though it is the hatred of the crowds and the injustice of Pilate that has condemned Jesus to die, the Roman soldiers also play their own spiteful part in mocking Jesus and forming a crown of thorns as they ridicule Him as "King of the Jews." Together, they fulfill the Psalmist's words: "There is none who does good, not even one." (Psalm 14:3)

Station 7: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Mark 15:20

Jesus had told His disciples that they would need to deny themselves and take up their own cross to follow Him. His offer to them is the same offer He makes to each of us. First to acknowledge that He has taken up His cross for us, then to do the same in this life.

Station 8: Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene

Luke 23:26

Jesus again demonstrates His humanity. He is a man like us, one who is familiar with suffering. His body was weak because of the beatings, flogging, and scourging He suffered at the hands of the Roman soldiers. We often demonstrate our weakness when we succumb to temptation and fall into sin. But with Jesus, there are others around us who can help us resist temptation and sin.

Station 9: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Luke 23:27-31

Even as He approaches His crucifixion Jesus' anguish is not for the pain and the torment His body will experience, but for the women around Him. The pain He knows they and many others will suffer in His absence brings Him to a new level of sadness. Jesus' heart cries out as His body begins to fail with grief for the generations to come. His love for you finds its expression in this cry.

Station 10: Jesus Is Crucified

Luke 23:33-38

All that happens in these hours happens to fulfill the prophecies the Father had given to His people throughout the ages as recorded in the Old Testament. Jesus knew of these prophecies and knew His role from His Father was to bring them into fruition. Jesus also knew that the soldiers didn't know that they were just ordinary individuals assigned to fulfill the

prophecy about His garments and so many other things. When we would have been focused on our own life and pain, His focus was on us.

Station 11: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

Luke 23:39-43

We live our lives believing we are invincible. Sometimes through an illness we ourselves experience, sometimes through the death of someone we love the truth is made known that we will not live forever. When this comes we all examine our beliefs, seeking to be made firm in the trust we had before this reality was discovered. Here from the cross, Jesus helps us all as we take the place of the righteous thief. He promises that “today” this man will be with Him in heaven. This promise is for you as well.

Station 12: The Crucified Jesus, His mother, and the Disciple

John 19:25-27

God our Father created the first family in the Garden of Eden. Family has always been the highest calling of Christians throughout the ages. The bible is filled with the stories of families weathering storms together. Here, the Father’s Son, Jesus shares with us a reaffirmation of the importance of family as He makes provision for His mother, and for His brother in love, the disciple John.

Station 13: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Luke 23:44-47

In His death, as in His life, Jesus impacted all around Him. We hear in this reading several truths that remind us of what Jesus has said throughout the gospels. He lays down His own life, no one takes it from Him. He desires that all men come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved, even those in opposition to Him. Everything Jesus has in Him calls out to those around Him. Calling them to enter into His love and

forgiveness. Remember this gift that He gave for You over two thousand years before you were even born.

Station 14: Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

Luke 23:50-54

All of Jesus' disciples had left Him alone on the cross. He was cut off even from His Father in heaven. It is a stranger who comes to claim His body, to treat it with respect and lay it in his own tomb. Joseph was a member of the opposition who had come to believe in Jesus. Jesus' promise to us is that He will never leave us or forsake us. His promise to us is that He will be with us always even to the end of the age. With every step He took during the last week of His life, His thoughts were of you. His love was focused on you. The steps He took into pain, and suffering, and crucifixion and death were steps He took so that you would not have to take them. Because of His great love for you He did all these things, for you.

Prayer: We pray together O Lord and give You our thanks and praise for all You have done for us. We thank You for taking the punishment for our sins. We thank You for giving up Your life and shedding Your blood for us. We thank You for all these things O Lord. We love You. And we know of Your great love for us. To You we pray Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Happy Easter Children

We are so happy you are with us today at church. And we want you to feel at home here at Faith. If you need anything, tell your mom or dad, or grandma or grandpa, or whoever you came with, and they can let us know and we can help.

- ❖ Please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that little ones wiggle and squeak sometimes, and it is a joy to His ears, and ours as well.
- ❖ Encourage your parents to help you sit up front by the altar area. That way you'll be better able to see all the stuff that is going on. Most of the action happens up front.
- ❖ Be sure to grab an activity bag from the kid's room in the back of the church. (It's that place with the window that looks into the church.)
- ❖ Be sure to sing along with your parents and the people around you. Jesus loves it when we make joyful noises to Him.
- ❖ When we pray, a lot of times we fold our hands and bow our heads so we can listen better to the prayers. Don't you love it when we pray together?
- ❖ Jesus teaches us a special prayer called the "Our Father", or the "Lord's Prayer". When we pray this one, it's a good time to hold our parent's hand because this is a prayer we pray together.

Please know that while you are caring for your parents, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words, ***"Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*** (Luke 18:16) You are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.



EASTER WORSHIP & BEYOND

April 19th

EASTER VIGIL

5:00 PM

"The Hand of the Lord Who Made Us"

Worship with Holy Communion

April 20th

EASTER SUNRISE

7:00 AM Outdoors

"The Hand of the Lord Who Is Risen"

Worship with Holy Communion

April 20th

EASTER BREAKFAST

7:30 – 9:15 Fellowship Hall

April 20th

EASTER SUNDAY

9:30 AM

"The Hand of the Lord Who Holds Us Always"

Worship with Holy Communion

April 27th & 28th

2nd WEEKEND OF EASTER

"Give Thanks to the Lord, For He Is Good"

Saturday at 5:00 PM & Sunday at 9:30 AM

May 3rd & 4th

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

"His Love Endures Forever"

Saturday at 5:00 PM & Sunday at 9:30 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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