

Good Friday

It is Finished



April 3, 2026 | 7:00 pm

Notes Before Worship

The darkness and loud sounds at the close of this service can be frightening for small children. It might help to prepare them for this; feel free to step out during the Lord's Prayer if your child becomes uncomfortable in the darkness. You can read through the service notes on page 15 to better understand what will happen.

The red votive candles on the Lenten cross mark the wounds of Christ on his head, hands, feet and side.

As part of the Triduum - Three Days, we begin tonight without Prelude or Invocation.

OPENING HYMN

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

LSB 451

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

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Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 53

But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, **and by His wounds we are healed.**

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; **and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

He poured out His life unto death, **and was numbered with the transgressors.**

For He bore the sin of many, **and made intercession for the transgressors.**

CONFESSION ABSOLUTION

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, when You came into this world of sin You were tested and tempted in every way. Yet You did not sin, but became sin for us.

Lord God, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness. We have failed to follow Your will. We have refused to obey Your law. We are unable to fulfill Your plan. We are crushed under the weight of our sin, and tonight the harsh reality of sin's horror hangs heavy around us. It is sin that made the cross necessary. It is our sin that required the Savior's death. Lord, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness.

Because of God's unending love for you, Jesus obediently died on your behalf. Because of His perfect sacrifice, your sins have been covered. The debt has been paid. As you hear and experience that reality tonight, know that you have God's grace. At the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

LSB 434, vv. 1, 3



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
 3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 52:13-14; 53:3-12

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—

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. 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 judgment 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.

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. 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.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrew 4:14-16; 5:7-9

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB 425

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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Please stand as you are able

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" LSB 439, vv. 1, 12, 15



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
12 I'll think up - on Thy mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,
15 And when, dear Lord, be - fore Thy throne in heav - en



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;
To me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
To do Thy will shall be my sole en -
Where sweet - est hymns Thy saints for - ev - er



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
deav - or Hence - forth for - ev - er.
raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

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SERMON

"Tetelestai"

Pastor Barry

OFFERING

Musical Offering "When You Prayed Beneath the Trees" Lloyd Larson

TENEBRAE SERVICE OF DARKNESS: The Seven Words from the Cross

The office (service) of Tenebrae (the name means "darkness" or "shadows") is a Holy Week observance which dates back to the 7th or 8th century AD and is characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. The Tenebrae Service reminds us that we deserve to live in darkness – without God – and that Christ went into that darkness for us, symbolized by the Christ candle which remains lit throughout.

THE FIRST WORD

John 19:14-18, Luke 23:34

It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others--one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Jesus said, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 449, v.1

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

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PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace: You did not seek revenge on those who tormented You. Grant us grace to forgive those who hurt us, to overcome evil with good, to love our enemies for Your sake, and as children of the heavenly Father, to seek Your peace, and evermore rejoice in Your love.

Amen.

The first candle is extinguished.

THE SECOND WORD

Luke 23:35-43

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, "If You are the king of the Jews, save Yourself." There was a written notice above Him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered him, *"I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise."*

HYMN

"Jesus Remember Me"

LSB 767

Sing 3 times.



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PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your infinite mercy, You heard the plea of the dying thief on the cross next to You. We pray that You would open our hearts to welcome those who turn to You, and rejoice in their salvation. When our last hour comes, hold us firm in our faith, and bring us also to live with You in paradise.

Amen.

The second candle is extinguished.

THE THIRD WORD

John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "*Dear woman, here is your son,*" and to the disciple, "*Here is your mother.*" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

HYMN

"At the Cross, Her Station Keeping"

(Tune: LSB 620)

At the cross, her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother weeping,
Where He hung, the dying Lord.
For her soul, of joy bereavéd,
Bowed with anguish, deeply grievéd,
Felt the sharp and piercing sword.

For His people's sins chastisé,
She beheld her Son despisé,
Scourged, and crowned with thorns entwined;
Saw Him then from judgment taken,
And in death by all forsaken,
'Till His spirit He resigned.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, while You suffered the agony of the cross, You remembered in love Your sorrowing mother. With that same love and pity bless all parents, especially those whose hearts are torn by the loss of loved ones or burdened with worry over their children. In Your mercy, gather all within the peace of Your cross, so that parent and child will know peace and that relationships may be restored.

Amen.

The third candle is extinguished.

THE FOURTH WORD

Matthew 27:45-46

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" – which means, "*My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?*"

SONG "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure!
That He should give His only Son,
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss!
The Father turns His face away;
As wounds which marred the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross:
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life:
I know that it is finished.

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PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your Son cried "Why have You forsaken me?" In time of trial and suffering, do not turn away from us, but give us Your presence and Your power that enable us to endure whatever may be set before us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The fourth candle is extinguished.

THE FIFTH WORD

John 19:28-29

Knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "*I am thirsty.*" 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.

HYMN

"O Perfect God, Thy Love"

(Tune: LSB 628)

O perfect God, Thy love,
As perfect Man did share
Here in this life each form of ill,
Thy fellow-man must bear.

O Savior, by Thy thirst,
Borne on the cross of shame
Grant us in all our sufferings here,
To glorify Thy name.

Thy body suffers thirst,
Parched are Thy lips and dry;
How poor the off'ring man can bring,
Thy thirst to satisfy!

Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, You endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place. We thirst for the healing that only You can provide. Strengthen us to carry our burdens and to endure our sufferings by the grace of Your holy example, always giving You thanks for Your love.

Amen.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

THE SIXTH WORD

Hebrews 9:27-28; John 19:30a

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "*It is finished.*"

HYMN**“O Perfect Life of Love”****LSB 452, vv. 1-2, 4-5**

O perfect life of love!
 All, all, is finished now,
 All that He left His throne above
 To do for us below.

And on His thorn-crowned head
 And on His sinless soul
 Our sins in all their guilt were laid
 That He might make us whole.

No work is left undone
 Of all the Father willed;
 His toil, His sorrows, one by one,
 The Scriptures have fulfilled.

In perfect love He dies;
 For me He dies, for me.
 O all-atoning Sacrifice,
 I cling by faith to Thee.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Precious Savior, on the cross, You bore the judgment we deserved. You paid the final and ultimate sacrifice for our sin. For your suffering and death, thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto You.

Amen.*The sixth candle is extinguished.***THE SEVENTH WORD****Luke 23:44-46**

Darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, *"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."* When He had said this, He breathed His last.

*The seventh candle is extinguished.***THE LORD'S PRAYER***Spoken softly by all, in the darkness.*

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**“Were You There”****LSB 456, v. 1***Sung by Choir.*

CHRIST CANDLE IS REMOVED

The Christ candle is removed, but not extinguished, to symbolize the death and burial of Christ. It remains lit for He still lives and reigns even now as our eternal Savior.

STREPITUS

Loud sound (caused by closing of a book) symbolizing the closing of the tomb.

CHRIST CANDLE IS RETURNED

To symbolize that our redemption is complete in the living Christ. Even though we meditate on His death, we do so with quiet joy in the confident knowledge of His resurrection.

Depart in silence.

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY!
If this is your first time at St. John's, we invite you to fill out a CONNECTCard located at the Welcome Desk or by using the QR code. We look forward to CONNECT-ing with you.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Pastor Snow

Liturgist: Pastor Barry

Pianist: Kristin Johnson

Choir: Messengers of Praise, directed by Dr. Katie Rolf

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: Levi Leao

Elder: Pete Siedelman

Usher Team: Andrew Tesch

Welcome Team: Gary Herber

Tech Crew: Jason Eickhoff, Hunter Krueger

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EASTER *at* ST. JOHN'S

EASTER SUNDAY | April 5

7:00 AM - Sunrise Service

8:30 & 10:00 AM

Watch services live at stjohnschaska.org

St. John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

300 E. 4TH ST. Chaska, MN 55318
952-448-2433
WWW.STJOHNSCHASKA.ORG