



Good Friday

Service of the Word
Friday, April 3, 2026, 7 p.m.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Exploring the promise of God for all

You are welcome. No exceptions.

Central Lutheran Church experiences God's expansive love and strives to share it abundantly. We affirm all people without regard to age, race, biological sex, housing status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration, refugee or migration status, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental health or ability. All are a part of God's family, created in God's image.

We strive to practice radical hospitality with all people and work toward racial equity. Everyone is invited to immerse themselves in the life of this community of faith as we explore the promise of God for all.

Worship



Bold print indicates responses spoken by all.



Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).



You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand or remain seated at any point in the service.



Masks are welcome, but not required.



Children are welcome and celebrated in worship. Each Sunday there are Children's Bags at each of the ushers' tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. Inside each bag is a worship activity and snack. Many families sit near the children's tables next to the baptismal font, but you are welcome to sit anywhere in the sanctuary that is comfortable to you.



All are welcome to receive communion at Central. At the ushers' invitation, you will proceed toward the altar where there are regular and gluten-free wafers served with wine or grape juice. Your server will offer bread and wine for all, including children. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please let your server know.



Offering can be made online using the QR code in the bulletin or left in the offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors.

MEMBERS OF:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org

Align Minneapolis | www.alignmpls.org

ReconcilingWorks | www.reconcilingworks.org

MNIPL Climate Justice Congregation | www.mnipl.org



Welcome to worship at Central
Lutheran Church. As you
arrive for worship, you are
invited to prepare your hearts
and minds before the service
begins today.

(Congregation gathers in silence)

Gathering

PSALM 22

Plainsong Tone IV.1

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

- ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- ² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.
- ³ Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴ Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.
- ⁵ They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- ⁶ But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- ⁷ All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.
- ⁸ “Trust in the Lord; let the Lord deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”
- ⁹ Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
- ¹⁰ I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.
- ¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.
- ¹² Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- ¹³ They open wide their jaws at me,
like a slashing and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴ I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- ¹⁵ 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.
- ¹⁶ Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.
- ¹⁷ I can count all my bones
while they stare at me and gloat.
- ¹⁸ They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.
- ¹⁹ But you, O Lord, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.
- ²⁰ Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.
- ²¹ Save me from the lion’s mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²² I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

²³ 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.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live
forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸ For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.

²⁹ Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before
the Lord.

³⁰ Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹ They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

(Repeat antiphon)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.
Amen.

Word

HYMN

*"Were You There"

Hymn 353

Verse 1

GOSPEL

John 18:1—19:42

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ 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. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"

**Many African American spirituals and hymns were never credited to their creators or were claimed by other individuals. On weekends when Central uses music or music texts created by people who were kept in chattel slavery, a donation will be made to a Historical Black College and University (HBCU) as a reparation to their descendants. For 2026, Central will be sending donations to Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.*



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

¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the religious leaders that it was better to have one person die for the people. ¹⁵Simon 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, ¹⁶but 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. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the servants 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. ¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.

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

²⁵Now 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.” ²⁶One 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?” ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.



HYMN
“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Hymn 349
Stanzas 1-2

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. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” ³¹Pilate said to them, “Take him

yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The religious leaders replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the people?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not of the Jewish people, am I? Your own religious leaders and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate 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.” ³⁸Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

Pilate went out to the religious leaders again and told them, “I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release Jesus for you?” ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King!” and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate 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.”

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” ⁶When the chief priests and the religious leaders saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” ⁷The chief priests 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.”

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate 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?” ¹¹Jesus 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.”

From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the people gathered cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.” ¹³When 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. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the people, “Here is your King!” ¹⁵They 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 the emperor.”¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Hymn 347

Stanzas 1 and 2

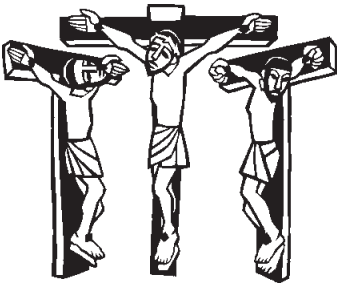


So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jewish people.” ²⁰Many of the Jewish people 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. ²¹Then the chief priests said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jewish people,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jewish people.’” ²²Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

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. ²⁴So 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.” ²⁵And 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. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Faithful Cross”

Leland Sateren

*Faithful Cross; above all other,
One and only noble Tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
None in fruit thy peer may be;
Sweetest wood and sweetest iron;
Sweetest weight is hung on thee.*

*Bend thy boughs, O Tree of Glory,
Thy relaxing sinews bend;
For a while the ancient rigor
That thy birth bestowed, suspend;
And the King of heavenly beauty
On thy bosom tend.*

*Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,
As a Victim won the day!*

-Venantius Fortunatus, tr. John Mason Neale



³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the religious leaders 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. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jewish people. ⁴¹Now 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. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

HYMN

*“Were You There”

Hymn 353
Verses 4 and 5

SERMON

The Good Friday bidding prayer is one of the church's oldest in continuous use. It is called the bidding prayer because of its structure. After each bid or invitation to prayer, the assembly prays silently.

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 351

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

(Please be seated)

BIDDING PRAYER

Each petition concludes with:

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Procession to the Cross

PRAYERS AROUND THE CROSS

You are invited to come forward to light a votive candle and/or offer a prayer at the rail.

“O Vos Omnes”

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Sung in Latin:

*O vos omnes, qui transitis per viam,
attendite et videte:*

*si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus,
attendite universi populi et videte*

dolorem meum

si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus.

Translation:

All you who pass by, pay attention
and see:

if there is any sorrow like my
sorrow,

pay attention all people,

if there is any sorrow like my
sorrow.

ADORATION OF THE CRUCIFIED

Behold, the life giving cross that opens us to God's vulnerability.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

Behold, the life giving cross that brings healing and hope.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

Behold, the life giving cross that reveals God's love for all.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you for by your cross you have redeemed the world.

There is no final blessing or dismissal, since the service continues tomorrow with the Easter Vigil. The congregation departs in silence. You are invited to remain in the sanctuary for a time of quiet meditation.

HYMN OF THE CROSS

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

BLESSING

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(Congregation departs in silence)

Join Central for Worship in Holy Week and Easter

Holy Saturday, April 4, 5 p.m.: The service of light, readings, baptism, and Holy Communion with dessert following.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.: Festival worship with donut holes and coffee between services.

Serving Today

Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>presider</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>assisting</i>
JoAnna Johnson	<i>quartet</i>
Robin Helgen	
Bill Pederson	
David Gindra	
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>

Thanks to:

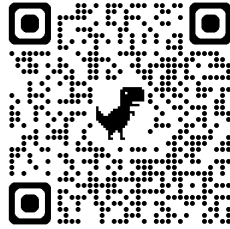
Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality Ministry Teams.

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Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

An Everyday Church for Everyone

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