



Saint James Lutheran Church



A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



*“Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning,
Fellowship and Service”*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. 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.

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7, 2023

7:00 P.M.

*Congregational Responses in **Bold***

All gather in silence.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Merciful God, as we remember how your son Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, how seven times he spoke, seven words of love, we ask you to bless our hearing. As we recall how all three hours his silence cried for mercy on the souls of all, we ask you to help us to understand the mystery of your love, and make us into a people who are ever more worthy of it; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST WORD LUKE 23:33-34

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, touch us with your hands which the sins of the world pierced with the nails and forgive our sins. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. **Amen.**

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

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

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

INTROIT

The Trisagion—from New Plainsong Mass

~David Hurd

THE SECOND WORD LUKE 23:39-43

“Today you will be with me in paradise.”

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?’ ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ ⁴²Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ ⁴³He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, as you looked upon the thief on the cross, look even upon us that we may confess our sins and ask humbly, ‘Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom.’ Enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all.

Amen.

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

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

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

THE THIRD WORD JOHN 19:23-27

"Woman, behold your Son! Behold your mother!"

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.

Let us pray. Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we who seek to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in any way. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. **Amen.**

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

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

ANTHEM

Lacrymosa—from Requiem

Wolfgang Mozart

THE FOURTH WORD MATTHEW 27:45-49

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Let us pray. Almighty God, who forsook your Son upon the cross showing the world your judgment upon human sin and guilt, grant us, upon hearing his cry, the grace to know and believe that we will never be forsaken, that he is present with us even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all.

Amen.

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

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



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
 5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
 A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
 when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
 dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
 here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

THE FIFTH WORD JOHN 19:28-29

"I thirst."

After 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.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. **Amen.**

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

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

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

THE SIXTH WORD JOHN 19:30-37

"It is finished."

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. ³¹Since 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. 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."

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. **Amen.**

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

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

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

"Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit"

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Let us pray. Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we too, following his example, may in all life and at the moment of our death entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all.

Amen.

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

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

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

ANTHEM

Pie Jesu

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Beth Downs, Shannon Nesbitt, Soprano Soloist

BIDDING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

People of God: our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. Let us kneel and pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Kneel or sit as able. Silence is held for reflection.

Let us pray for Elizabeth and Tim our bishops, for Craig our pastor, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.

Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us.

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.

THE TOLLING OF THE CHURCH BELL

The Church Bell is tolled 33 times signifying the age of Jesus at his death.

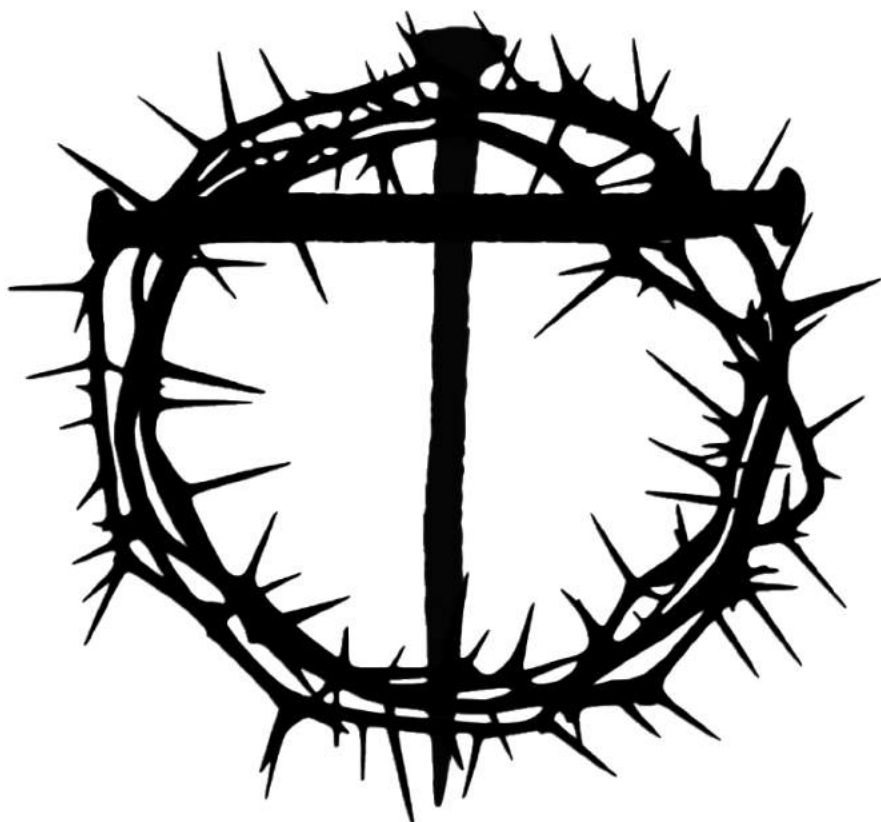
After the tolling of the bell then follows,

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

THE DEPARTURE

All depart in silence.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 8 at 2:00 pm

EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP

Sunday, April 9 at 6:30 am

Gather outside at the columbarium.

In case of inclement weather the service will begin inside.

BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 9 at 8:00 - 9:00 am (Fellowship Hall)

EASTER DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 am

VIDEOGRAPHER: Keith Sutton

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Betsy Ellington-Boynton

Acolyte: Finley Stephens

COPYRIGHT

THE TRISAGION Contributor: David Hurd Tune: 1981, GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.