



Good Friday

April 3, 2026

Messiah Lutheran Church

Pastor Ben Cherland

Good Friday | Prayer Around the Cross

Messian Lutheran Church, Red Lodge

PREPARATION

Prelude

Be Still my Soul - Tune: Finlandia by Jean Sibelius

Meditate on the words by Katherina von Schlegel

Be still my soul for God is on your side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to your God to order and provide
In every change God faithful will remain
Be still my soul, your best eternal friend,
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Welcome

Welcome to Good Friday, the second stop of the Triduum - the single, three-day service that begins with Maundy Thursday and ends with the conclusion of the Easter Vigil. This service has been fashioned from a service developed at Holden Village called *Prayer Around the Cross*. With repetitive song, silence, candlelight, and our own reflection and prayer, we encounter the crucified Christ who knows our burdens and receives our prayers.

Silence

Song – Listen

Listen, listen... Be open, O my heart. (Sing twice)

Watching, waiting...

Night is falling...

Love is calling...

In this moment...

Listen, listen...

GATHERING

Greeting: The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

For God alone we wait in silence, at the close of the day, in near darkness
To God alone we pour out our hearts, with simple songs and wordless prayers
For God alone we wait in silence, in the company of strangers and friends
To God alone we pour out our hearts, kneeling or sitting beside the cross
For God alone we wait in silence, lighting a candle and watching its flame

Silence and Song – Kindle a Flame

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

WORD

Numbers 21:4-9

The Department of Defense announced Friday that 13 American troops have died and 200 wounded as a result of the war in Iran since the conflict began in late February.

Psalm 22:1-2, 9-11

...you could be forgiven for thinking that abuse like this isn't normal for Customs and Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. But those of us who live in border states can tell you: It is.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Housing accounted for 32.9% of consumers' spending in 2023, making it the largest share of consumer expenditures, according to the most recently available data [from the] Bureau of Labor Statistics... an increase of 4.7% from 2022. This year, many Americans still struggle to find affordable housing, whether they... rent or buy a home.

John 19: 17-30

"Global Water Bankruptcy" is a 2026 UN University report declaring that humanity has depleted water resources beyond sustainable levels. It signifies an irreversible state where, similar to financial bankruptcy, water usage exceeds income and long-term savings (aquifers), causing permanent ecological damage...rendering traditional "water crisis" definitions obsolete.

Silence

PRAYER

Procession of Light

Invitation to the Cross

God never stands far off, but is close at hand. In Christ Jesus, God draws near to us, offering grace upon grace, mercy beyond measure, and life without end.

You who are troubled or in distress, you who feel separated from God's love,
come to the cross where Christ receives your burdens and gives you rest.

Come, you who are filled with fear or anxiety, you who tremble when
the earth is moved and your world begins to crumble.

You who comfort those who weep and you who wait with those near death,
come to the One who is our hope and final home

Come, you who are burdened with pain or grief,
you who are bound by guilt or shame.

You who cry out for wars to cease and violence to end, come to the One
who will crush our weapons of war and turn our hearts toward peace.

Join in singing as the chant begins.

When you are drawn, come to the cross.

Prayer at the Cross: Musical Offerings and Communal Songs

Song and Silence

O God We Call

O God, we call (x2)

From deep inside we yearn (x3) for you.

Be still and know

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

Peace, Be Still

Peace, be still. Peace, be still.

The storm rages. Peace, be still.

Cello – Telemann. Largo from Sonata in D

ELW 355 Sing, My Tongue vs1-2,5-7

Closing Prayer

May God be merciful and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us. Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations... May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe. We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world. AMEN

SENDING

Silence and song – If We Live

If we live, we live to the Lord. If we die, we die to the Lord.

So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Blessing

So, here A poem by **Rainer Maria Rilke**

God speaks to each of us as he makes
us, then walks with us silently out of
the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.

sFlare up like a flame
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty
and terror. Just keep going. No feeling
is final. Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.

Book I.59, translated by Joanna Macey and Anita Burrows and collected in their [Rilke's Book of Hours: Love Poems to God](#) (Riverhead Books, 2005)

Sending Go in peace, or remain in silence to pray

Holy Week Continues

Easter Vigil April 4, 6:00 p.m.