

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
The Lutheran Church of the Master*



FATHER
forgive them

*Good Friday
April 4, 2021*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Good Friday

The Nails of the Cross

April 4, 2021

The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day, but to celebrate Christ’s life-giving Passion, and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer, we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.

*The service tonight is known as the “Service of The Nails.” It is a series of readings, responses, reflection and prayer designed to help us enter more deeply into the meaning of Good Friday. As we continue to do our part to continue improving the circumstances with COVID-19, we encourage you to still whole-heartedly participate from wherever you find yourself this day. We still worship our Lord of the cross together as one family in Christ. Feel free to speak the **bold print** and sing along with the hymns.*

Procession of the Cross

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior
of the whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

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First Reading

Isaiah 52:13–15

Hymn *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Verses 1 & 4



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 - ges - 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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

Prayer

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.**

The Nails of the Cross

The Nail of Pride

Mark 12:38–40

Meditation and Prayer: *Silence is kept for meditation.*

O God, help us consider our own pride and where it leads.

O God, do not let us deceive ourselves. Our pride hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our pride hurts you.

Music Interlude *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken?* (Vyhanek)

The Nail of Betrayal

Matthew 26:47–56

Meditation and Prayer: *Silence is kept for meditation.*

O God, help us consider how we betray others, how we abandon them in their time of need, how we think of ourselves first.

O God, do not let us deceive ourselves. Our acts of betrayal hurt us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our betrayal hurts you.

Music Interlude *Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted* (Schroeder)

The Nail of Envy

Matthew 20:20–28

Meditation and Prayer: *Silence is kept for meditation.*

O God, help us consider how we envy others, how we desire more than we receive and seek to influence and rule over others.

O God, do not let us deceive ourselves. Our envy hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our envy hurts you.

Music Interlude *We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died*
(Sanders)

The Nail of Indecision

Matthew 27:20–24

Meditation and Prayer: *Silence is kept for meditation.*

O God, help us consider how we waver, how we seek to avoid responsibility and to blame others for our actions.

O God, do not let us deceive ourselves. Our indecision hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our indecision hurts you.

Music Interlude *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* (Bach)

The Nail of Cruelty

Matthew 27:27–31, 39–42

Meditation and Prayer: *Silence is kept for meditation.*

O God, help us consider how we are cruel to others, how we malign and slander others and add to the evil that comes upon them.

O God, do not let us deceive ourselves. Our cruelty hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our cruelty hurts you.

Music Interlude *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* (arr. Kuehmann)

Ann Droste, flute

The Nail of Hatred

Luke 6:22, 32–35

Meditation and Prayer: *Silence is kept for meditation.*

O God, help us consider how we show hate to others, how we fail to care for others and make distinctions among them.

O God, do not let us deceive ourselves. Our hatred hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our hatred hurts you.

Music Interlude *Not All the Blood of Beasts* (Beck)

The Response

Bidding Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. As the Holy Spirit, guide your whole church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and eternal God, you guide the church universal and set it apart for your Great News to be made known. 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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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, including for those with COVID-19. 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:

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.

Sung Response *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (Verses 1-3) #347



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,



your Re-deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

Solemn Reproaches

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way;

I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit;

I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink;

I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;

I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed;

I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the Promised Land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross;

I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

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

Hymn

Were You There

Verses 1, 2, 4



- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Refrain



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual