

# GOOD FRIDAY

AES MINISTRIES  
Augustana and East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

GOOD FRIDAY

April 2, 2026

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**"Congregations joined in faith and fellowship  
to spread God's love."**

Mission statement of AES Ministries

## A EULOGY FOR JESUS

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, descendants of King David. After traveling to Egypt where they stayed for a time to escape the enemies of Jesus, the family moved back to Israel into the town of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

At the age of 30 Jesus set out on his own to preach the Good News of God's love and forgiveness toward all people. He did this by frequent sermons and also by miracles of healing and by resurrections. He was a great influencer of the people of Israel, and many of them came to believe in him as the Christ promised by God through the Old Testament prophets.

Jesus' death comes as a result of the actions of many who rejected him. But he also died for us - for our sins, to pay the price of our salvation. As Isaiah said, "The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Jesus was survived by his mother and several friends and followers, including his close gathering of disciples--with the exception of Judas, who preceded him in death. He is also survived by us today who remember his death for our sins and work to proclaim the same Gospel he preached and thus keep his memory alive in the world as we invite neighbors, coworkers, and friends to experience him as their Savior.

His name is gratefully held in our hearts. His message of love and promise of eternal life will live on in our consciousness as long as we live and continue to gather. And we proclaim him to be the Son of God for all the world to hear.

*We gather in silence.*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 53)

**L: He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of the dry ground.**

C: He was despised and rejected by others; he was a man of suffering acquainted with infirmity.

**L: He was a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering.**

C: He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

**L: We all, like sheep, have gone astray.**

C: We have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Come to the cross,

**C: We come to remember and look to Jesus for forgiveness.**

L: Here in this place there is hope, healing, and peace.

**C: We have been rebellious, self-seeking, and intolerant.**

L: Hear our confession, O Lord, and grant us your peace.

**C: We have not always been gentle or kind.**

L: Hear our confession, O Lord, and grant us your peace.

**C: We have avoided conflict and said nothing when we should have said something.**

L: Hear our confession, O Lord, and grant us your peace.

**C: We have closed our hearts and paid attention to our differences.**

L: Hear our confession, O Lord, and grant us your peace.

**C: We have polluted your creation with both our junk and our words.**

L: Hear our confession, O Lord, and grant us your peace.

**C: We come --unclean, unhealthy, unworthy.**

L: (pause) Here is the incredible truth. God listens to us. God hears us. God loves us. When Jesus Christ cries out "Father, forgive them!", his eyes are on us! It is in Jesus Christ that we are renewed!

**C: We are washed clean. Amen.**

### **HYMN "The Old Rugged Cross"**

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down: I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me; for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down: I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see, for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down: I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

4. To that old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear; then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down: I will cling To the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray...

**C: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC "The Three Nails" Janet, Sonja, Lisa**

**MOVEMENT INTO DARKNESS: MATTHEW 26 and 27**

**THE DISCIPLES**

Reading: Matthew 26:6-13

Reflection

**THE FIRST CANDLE – Peter**

Silent Prayer

Reading: Matthew 26:31-35

Reflection

**HYMN**                           **“Ah, Holy Jesus”**                           **vs. 1 #349**

**THE SECOND CANDLE – Judas**

Silent Prayer

Reading: Matthew 26:47-51

Reflection

**THE THIRD CANDLE – The Chief Priests**

Silent Prayer

Reading: Matthew 26:59-66

Reflection

**HYMN**                           **“Ah, Holy Jesus”**                           **vs. 2 #349**

**THE FOURTH CANDLE – Pilate**

Silent Prayer

Reading: Matthew 27:11-24

Reflection

**THE FIFTH CANDLE – Roman Soldiers**

Silent Prayer

Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

Reflection

**HYMN**                           **“Ah, Holy Jesus”**                           **vs. 3 #349**

**THE SIXTH CANDLE – Mary**

Silent Prayer

Reading: John 19:25-27

Reflection

**THE SEVENTH CANDLE – Jesus, the Christ**

Silent Prayer

Reading: Matthew 27:45-54

Reflection

**HYMN**                           **“Ah, Holy Jesus”**                           **vs. 4 #349**

**THE EIGHTH CANDLE – The Women**

Silent Prayer

Reading: Matthew 27:55-56

Reflection

**HYMN**                           **“Ah, Holy Jesus”**                           **vs. 5 #349**

**THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Silent Prayer

**PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

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

**C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

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**C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

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

**C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

**SENDING**

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

**C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

P: It is finished.

**DEPART IN SILENCE**

**EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

7:00 am Easter Breakfast, Augustana

8:00 am Easter Communion Worship, Augustana

9:00 am Rolls and Beverages, East

10:00 am Easter Communion Worship, East