Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church



 **Ecumenical Good Friday Service**  April 18, 2025 – 12:15 p.m. April 17, 2025

**PRELUDE MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND ANNCOUNCEMENTS** – Vicar Elaine Robbins

**Call to Worship** – Vicar Elaine Robbins

From the busyness of our lives

we have come here on a day that is different.

In the midst of the world

which holds the promise of spring and new life,

We have come to share a story of betrayal and execution.

Come and hear the tale,

Come and share the tragedy,

Come and embrace the darkness.

**Opening Prayer** – Gale Rodgers

God of light, God of shadow, in our time together today,

keep us aware of your presence in the darkness,

help us to see meaning in this terrible story,

and keep the fear of hope alive in our hearts.

This we pray in the name of the man from Nazareth,

the one who lived with a great passion for your Way,

the one whose death is nigh,

the one who taught his friends to pray saying:

**Our Father who art in heaven…….**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be Seated.*

**+WORD+**

**READINGS** –George Balko

**Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12**

**Psalm 22** – Pastor Sandi Kolder

**Hebrews 10:16-25** – Karen Gamelin

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks Be to God!**

**LITANY OF CONFESSION: GOOD FRIDAY**

**Where are you?** - Pastor Gin Mannisto

Where am I?

I confess I am not always at the cross.

It’s easy to be distracted and let my attention move here and there.

I confess, I’m not always grateful for the death of Jesus.

A person gets busy with all sorts of things.

Good things, mind you, like family and church committees and responsibilities to aging parents.

Community projects.

Doing homework, shopping.

Part time work.

Life gets hectic.

And burdensome.

I confess I try to carry my own burdens.

And work out my own salvation.

I like to be in control.

I wonder, do I betray Jesus with my self-sufficiency?

Do I deny him with my self-centered living?

**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way.**

We have been ungrateful.

Our hearts have not been humble.

Our spirits are not contrite.

Teach us how to find your presence, God, at the cross.

Teach us how to share the death of Jesus.

**But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.**

**Upon him was the punishment that made us whole and by his bruises we are healed.**

**HYMN #353 Were You There**

**The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Gospel of John**

**(John 18:1-19:42)**

*On Good Friday, the story of Jesus’ passion-from his arrest to his burial-is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.*

*Joined together as the body of Jesus Christ in this place and this time, we tell each other the story of the passion, which took place in Jerusalem all those years ago and takes place in us again today.*

***Please turn to page 10 in the Good Friday booklet titled***

***“The Passion According to John.”***

*The congregation reads the bold parts marked with a leaf in unison.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY #338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

***PROCESSION OF THE CROSS*** *–*

*Vicar Elaine Robbins; Crucifer, George Balko*

*A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before*

*the assembly.*

***The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.***

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

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

*(This dialogue is repeated twice as the cross is brought forward.)*

**Prayer of Invocation** (John 19:25-27) – Pastor Sandi Kolder

Holy Jesus, we are here.

We stand beside your cross like Mary, your mother,

and the faithful women,

and John whom you asked Mary to claim,

And we wait for your word to us.

Claim us.

You are here. Speak to us in your ever-speaking voice.

Speak again through your Holy Spirit.

For us it is not yet finished.

We are here.

You are here.

Holy Jesus, speak!

**VENERATION OF THE CROSS**

***During this time, worshipers may come to the cross to make a sign***

***of reverence.***

*Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling, sitting or standing before it for prayer or touching it.*

*You are free to leave at any time after Veneration of the Cross has begun.*

*You are also welcome to stay as long as you would like.*

*The worship space will remain open for as long as anyone remains present.*

***During this time, we also sing together as Christ’s church.***

*- #348 Stay with Me x2*

*- #752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying x2*

*- #616 Jesus, Remember Me x3*

***All depart in silence.*** *If they have not done so earlier, worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.*

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This Good Friday Service is hosted by the Alger Community Ecumenical Team and its participating congregations: The First Presbyterian Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church, The United Methodist Church, and Eden Lutheran Church.

***The offering this evening will help support the Alger County Women’s Center and the Alger Community Food Pantry. Thank you!***

The Passion of Our lord according to John –

Speaking parts:

**Narrator** – Pastor Jim Rodgers **Jesus** – George Balko

**Woman** – Pastor Marion Luckey **Peter** – Ann Dusterhoft

**Witness** – Marion Coryell **Pilate** – Gale Rodgers

People – **Bold print** Congregation