



THE LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

APRIL 3, 2026 † 12:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion story.

(For more on the gospel reading, see page 6.)

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 assembly gathers in silence.

Prelude — “Ah, Holy Jesus”

Helmut Walcha

***Prayer of the Day**

☐ 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.**

Reading — Hebrews 10:16-25

Pew Bible, page 976

After the reading:

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Hymn — ELW No. 353

“Were You There”

Stanzas 1-4 — all
Stanza 5 — all, hushed

The Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew

Matthew 26:36—27:66

I. Matthew 26:36-56 *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*

Hymn — “Ah, Holy Jesus” (ELW No. 349) *stanza 1*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.

Text: Johann Heermann; tr. Robert Bridges; Music: Johann Crüger

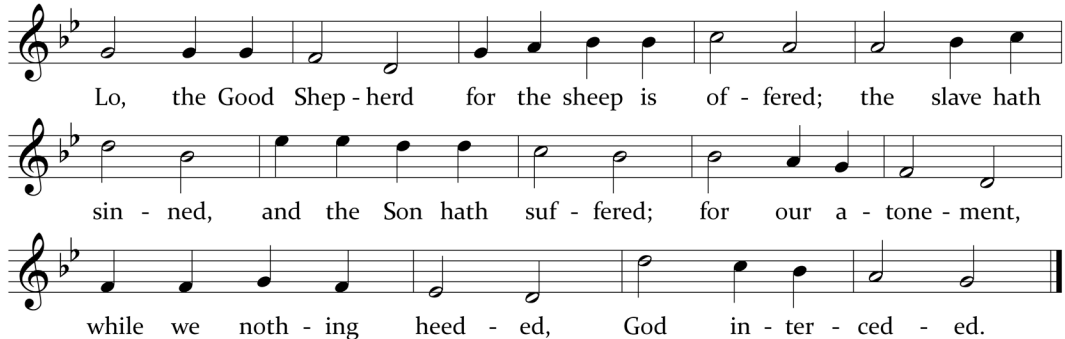
II. Matthew 26:57-75 *Jesus Before the High Priest; Peter Denies Jesus*

Hymn — “Ah, Holy Jesus” *stanza 2*

Who was the guil - ty? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.

III. Matthew 27:1-31 *Jesus Before Pilate and the Trial*


Hymn — “Ah, Holy Jesus” stanza 3



Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of-fered; the slave hath
sin-ned, and the Son hath suf-fered; for our a-tone-ment,
while we noth-ing heed-ed, God in-ter-ced-ed.

IV. Matthew 27:32-56 *The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus*

Hymn — “Ah, Holy Jesus” stanza 4



For me, kind Je-sus, was thine in-car-na-tion, thy mor-tal
sor-row, and thy life's ob-la-tion; thy death of an-guish
and thy bit-ter pas-sion, for my sal-va-tion.

V. Matthew 27:57-66 *The Burial of Jesus*

Hymn — “Ah, Holy Jesus” stanza 5



There-fore, kind Je-sus, since I can-not pay thee, I do a-
dore thee, and will ev-er pray thee; think on thy pit-y
and thy love un-swerv-ing, not my de-serv-ing.

***Bidding Prayer**

***The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn — ELW No. 351

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Closing Response

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

All depart in silence.



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	John Gorder
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Livestream	(7:00) Mark Gleason

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by friends of St. John's. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1 FM from 8:30–9:30 a.m. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office.

OUR GOSPEL READING

It has been the tradition of the lectionary to read the Gospel of John for the Great Three Days; however, all four Gospel writers have their own accounts of the Passion, and often these accounts are not frequently read. This year we focus on Matthew—the lectionary Gospel for ordinary time—for our passion reading.

As with the Gospel of John, contemporary readers are called to wrestle with the ways Matthew downplays the role of the Roman empire in Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus could not have been crucified by any authority other than the occupying government of Rome. Crucifixion was a punishment inflicted upon many Jews who were seen to be a threat to imperial power and order. Whatever role religious authorities had in turning Jesus over to the Romans, they were not solely responsible for his death.

Matthew's Gospel alone has the troubling line, "His blood be upon us and on our children." For generations these words were hurled by Christians in acts of horrific violence against Jews. However, it is both historically implausible that these words were collectively shouted, and genealogically incorrect to identify the mixed crowd present then with ethnic Jews today. It is imperative upon us in worship to hear in these words our own worst moments, whenever we betray our faith in Jesus' grace and mercy. In the words of the hymnwriter, Good Friday calls us not to point a finger at "who killed Jesus" but instead to confess: "I it was denied Thee. I crucified Thee." (ELW No. 349, "Ah, Holy Jesus")

Easter Worship

Celebration of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday, April 5

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion at both Services

8:30 a.m. service broadcast on KYMN 1080 AM / 95.1 FM
and livestream on the St. John's website

Easter Breakfast

Served from 9:00–11:00 a.m.
in St. John's Hall

St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m.

Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.
Make sure to bring a basket or bag to collect all the eggs!

Email Julie Brehmer, children@StJohnsNorthfield.org,
if you can help Saturday morning.

Thank you!

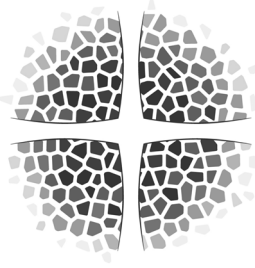
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover artwork: Crucifixion 1 © 2026 John August Swanson | Eyekons

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14028-LIT. Other liturgical aids are from
Sundays and Seasons © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission.

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-708009



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Sally Lindell, *Faith Community Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
Arturo Rosas, *Custodial Associate*
David Sims, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*