



THE LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

APRIL 7, 2023 † 12:00 P.M. & 6:15 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to Matthew, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. (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.

GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

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 — Isaiah 52:13—53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own

way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn — ELW No. 351

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Homily

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

The Passion of Our Lord according to 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
tre - 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. 353

“Were You There”

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

Closing Response

- P** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- C** 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 Ministers	(12:00) Dennis Rinehart (6:15) Ed and Barb Kuhlman
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Ushers	(12:00) Kent Rommereim, Alison Kavanaugh, Jon Kavanaugh, Doug O'Leary, Ruth Dahl (6:15) Christy Hall-Holt, Olaf Hall-Holt Susan Immel, Leif Knecht

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. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: June 12, 19 & 26. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV) - cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

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 read frequently. This year we will be focusing 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")

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Holy Saturday, April 8

The Great Vigil of Easter

8:00 p.m.

Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Celebration of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday, April 9

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 and Facebook page

St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8, 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 if you can help Saturday morning.

Thank you!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

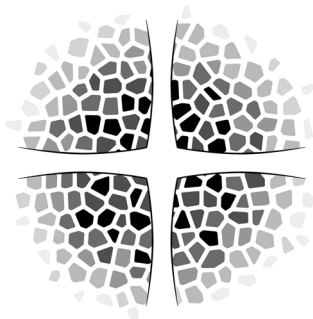
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Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*
Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Children's Music Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

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