

April 3, 2026

Good Friday Worship



*Wrapping the Cross: Song, Prayer, Word,
and Action in 5 Parts*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
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CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We gather, broken but united, to worship God.

C: We gather to REMEMBER how Jesus suffered and died for us. As we remember, so we give thanks to God for love and mercy poured out for us and the world.

P: Who has believed our message and to whom has the Lord been revealed?

C: He grew up before God like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

P: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that should call us to him. He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

C: Like one from whom others hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Part I. The Scene is Set

Song of Remembering *Old Rugged Cross* Celebration Hymnal (CH) #327
verses 1-2

READING: Mark 15:16-20

PSALM 22:1-5, (read responsively)

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴**Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.**

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

Act: Linens are laid on the bare altar.

Part II. The Cross is Carried

Song of Confessing: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* **CH #324**

Litany: Repeat three times.

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

C: O come, let us worship him.

READING: Mark 15: 21-24

PSALM 22: 14-21 (*read responsively*)

¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.

¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.**

¹⁷I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

¹⁸**They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.**

¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰**Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.**

²¹Save me from the lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

Act: The cross is placed on the linens.

Part III. Jesus is Crucified

Song of Sorrow:

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

CH #316

Prayer:

P: Lord, you shared every kind of suffering through your Son. Let us pray that we may be strengthened through his mercy to endure whatever distress confronts us.

C: Compassionate Father, we seek help for all men and women and children upon whom crosses are laid; for nations plagued with famine, war, or coronavirus; for any who suffer persecution because of their faith; for persons in danger by sea, land, or air; and for any people oppressed with poverty or sickness, enduring distress of body, disturbance of mind, or shaking of soul.

P: Let us pray that God will strengthen the faith of all believers in Christ and keep them loyal in times of testing.

C: O Father, you are conscious of the sparrow's fall. Speak to us when courage fails, when we faint for fear, and love grows cold. Make new within us the witness of your everlasting faithfulness.

P: To him who loves us and freed us from our sins with his life's blood, who made us of a royal house, to serve as the prophets and priests of his God and Father – to Jesus be the kingdom, power, and glory.

READING: Mark 15:25-32

PSALM 22:6-8, (*read responsively*)

⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

⁸**“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

Act: The sign is nailed to the cross, reading "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Part IV. Jesus Breathes his Last

Song of Prayer: Jesus, Remember Me

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom." The first system shows the vocal line with a treble clef and the piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The second system is identical to the first.

Prayer of Dedication:

P: Lord God, you have given us everything.

C: You have not held anything back.

P: Bless us and all that we think, feel, say, and do, that we, like Jesus may be a blessing unto others.

C: We ask this, and all things that we ask of you, through the Lamb of God, saying the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

READING: Mark 15:33-39

Psalm 22: 27-31, (*read responsively*)

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before
the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

ANTHEM

O Come and Mourn

by Crawford R. Thoburn

Meditation on "Mary Speaks":

O you who bear the pain of the whole earth,
I bore you.

O you whose tears give human tears their worth,
I laughed with you.

You, who, when your hem is touched, give power,
I nourished you.

Who turn the day to night in this dark hour,
light comes from you.

O you who hold the world in your embrace,
I carried you.

Whose arms encircled the world with your grace,
I once held you.

O you who laughed and ate and walked the shore,
I played with you.
 And I, who with all others, you died for,
now I hold you.

May I be faithful to this final test:
 In this last time I hold my child, my son,
 his body close enfolded to my breast,
 the holder held: the bearer borne.
 Mourning to joy: darkness to morn.
Open, my arms: your work is done.
 Madeleine L'Engle

Action: Herbs, used around the world and throughout history for fragrance and enriching flavor are placed on the cross to signify our sorrow and grief at Jesus' burial as well as our deep wish for healing of all trauma and loss. At this time, worshippers are invited, if they so choose, to come forward, placing herbs and flowers on the cross. A basket will receive offerings of medicines and salves for Bridge of Peace and Christian Caring Center; another basket is for our regular giving.

Part V. Jesus is Buried

Song: *Were You There?* **CH #315**
 Verses 1, 2, & 3 Only

During song, cross is bound in linens; during following reading, cross is carried into the darkness inside the building.

READING: Mark 15: 42-46

A strepitus (loud noise) is heard, symbolizing the rolling of the stone to close the tomb.

The service ends and all are asked to depart in silence.

*Please join us for
Easter Sunday Worship at
10:15 AM!*

