

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

## Good Friday

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**Introduction to Good Friday Worship:** Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of this Holy Week on Easter Sunday.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Let us pause to pray and reflect upon the great mercy of our God, who this day gave us his only begotten Son to save us from sin.

Lighting the Candles

**Were You There?**

### *The Trial*

Then Pilate addressed the crowd saying, "Shall I release to you this man called Jesus,  
King of the Jews?"

**No! We want Barabbas!**

So, Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged, and the soldiers placed a crown of thorns on  
his head, dressed him in a purple robe and mocked him saying,

**"Hail, King of the Jews."**

Pilate then brought him before the crowd and said, "Here is the man."

When the chief priests and police saw him, they shouted,

**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**

Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him; I find no case against him."

But they cried out all the more,

**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**

Pilate, being afraid of the crowd asked, "Jesus, do you not know I have the power to release you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me unless given to you from above." From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus, but the Jews cried out,

**Away with Him! Crucify Him!**

Pilate asked, "Shall I crucify your King?"

**We have no King but Caesar!**

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. He had placed on the cross over Jesus' head a sign in Hebrew, Latin and Greek; 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews'

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

### Bidding Prayer

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for our bishops, our pastors, and for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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.**

Anthem

*And Can It Be?* Arr. by Dan Forrest - Men's Quartet

## The Crucifixion

### First Word

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. -Luke 23:34

Meditation

Pastor Jim Holmberg

### Second Word

One of the criminals who was hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.' -Luke 23:39-43

Hymn

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

### Third Word

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. -John 19:26

Hymn

**They Crucified My Lord**

Fourth Word

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land. And at about three-o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” -Matthew 27:46

Hymn

**O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**Fifth Word

When Jesus knew that all was now finished he said, in order to fulfill the scripture, “I am thirsty.” So, they put a sponge full of wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. -John 19:28

Meditation

Pastor Ann Williams

Sixth Word

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” -John 19:30

Hymn

**Ah, Holy Jesus**Seventh Word

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said,

*“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”*

And having said this he breathed his last.

*(Pause)*

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

**“Truly this man was the Son of God!”**

*The Christ candle is carried out in silence, to the Baptismal Font at the entrance of the Sanctuary. A loud bang is heard to signal Jesus’ death and recalls the days when Jesus was in the tomb.*

Since it was the day of Preparation, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave his permission. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with spices in linen cloths. And they placed the body in a nearby tomb.

Hymn

**Were You There?**

Please depart in peace.