

Good Friday
April 3, 2026
10:00 am and 6:30 pm

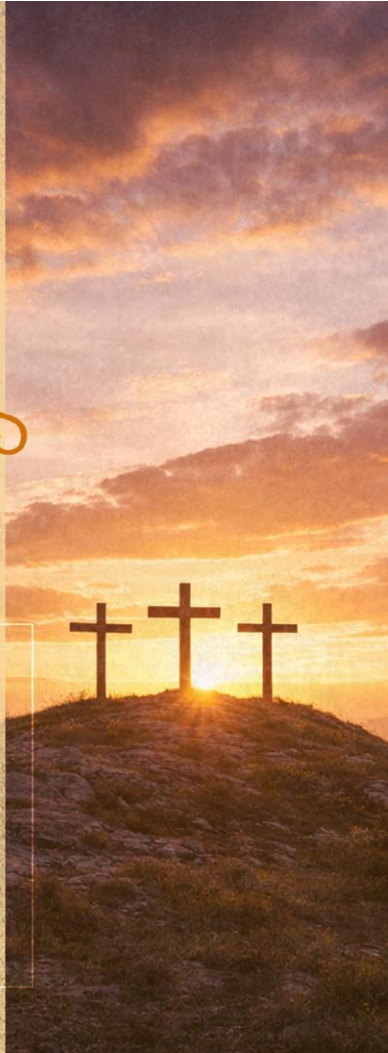


GOOD
Friday

When he had
received the drink,
Jesus said,
“It is finished.”

With that, he
bowed his head
and gave up
his spirit.

John 19:30, NIV



ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS

Pastor Paul: It is an ancient tradition in the church to spend some time during Holy Week to reflect on the seven last words spoken by Jesus on the cross. These “Seven Last Words of Jesus” are not actually words – they are really phrases. And one might point out that they are not even the last words that Jesus speaks. After he is raised from the dead, he speaks to his disciples. And after his ascension, he speaks to Paul, and then through the Holy Spirit he continues to speak to all Christians. But, still, these are the last words that Jesus speaks from the cross, and consequently they hold a unique place in the church’s life.

In this service for Good Friday, we ponder Christ’s death on the cross as a sacrifice for us all. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of sacrifice, guided by Christ and the cross. As we ponder these last words of Jesus, I pray that they might draw you ever closer to the One who first spoke them, who died that we might live and to always know His love.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Isaiah 53:1-3)

Pastor Paul: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor Paul: We gather here to worship God.

People: We gather to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us and to thank God for His love and His mercy.

Pastor Paul: Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

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

Pastor Paul: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

People: Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

DRAMA: Shelly Simonson

OPENING HYMN: LSB 456 Were You There

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

- 2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
- 4 Were you there when God raised Him from the
tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the
tomb?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God raised Him from the
tomb?

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PRAYER

Pastor Paul: Let us pray.

People: Merciful God - as we remember how Your son Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross, how seven times He spoke, seven words of love, we ask You to bless our hearing.

Pastor Paul: Father, as we recall how for hours His silence cried for mercy on the souls of all, we ask You to help us to understand the mystery of Your love and make us into a people who are ever more worthy of it.

People: Amen.

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS

THE FIRST WORD: Luke 23:33-34 (video slide)

Pastor Paul: When they came to the place called "The Skull", they nailed Jesus to the cross there, and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said "Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing."

Pastor Greg: Meditation on the First Word

Extinguishing the Candle

Pastor Paul: Lord Jesus - You gave Your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN: LSB 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verses 1-3)

- 1 Jesus, in Your dying woes,
Even while Your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for Your foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

- 2 Savior, for our pardon sue
When our sins Your pangs renew,
For we know not what we do:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

- 3 Oh, may we, who mercy need,
Be like You in heart and deed,
When with wrong our spirits bleed:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

THE SECOND WORD: Luke 23:39-43 (video slide)

Pastor Paul: One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying: "Don't you fear God? Here we are all under the same sentence. Ours, however, is only right, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, "I tell you this: Today you will be in Paradise with me."

Pastor Greg: Meditation on The Second Word

Extinguishing the Candle

Pastor Paul: Lord Jesus - You gave Your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN: LSB 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verses 4-6)

- 4 Jesus, pitying the sighs
Of the thief, who near You dies,
Promising him paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus.

- 5 May we in our guilt and shame
Still Your love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on Your name:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

- 6 May our hearts to You incline
And their thoughts Your cross entwine.
Cheer our souls with hope divine:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

THE THIRD WORD: John 19:25-27 (video slide)

Pastor Paul: Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

Pastor Greg: Meditation on the Third Word

Extinguishing the Candle

Pastor Paul: Lord Jesus - You gave Your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN: LSB 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verses 7-9)

7 Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose heart Your sorrows rend,
And Your dearest human friend:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

8 May we in Your sorrows share,
For Your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy Your tender care:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

9 May we all Your loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving, since Your love we see:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

THE FOURTH WORD: Mark 15:33-34 (video slide)

Pastor Paul: And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Elo-i, elo-i, lama sabach-thani?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Pastor Greg: Meditation on the Fourth Word

Extinguishing the Candle

Pastor Paul: Lord Jesus - You gave Your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN: LSB 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes
(verses 10-12)

- 10 Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from heav'n is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

- 11 When we seem in vain to pray
And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

- 12 Though no Father seem to hear,
Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

THE FIFTH WORD: John 19:28 (video slide)

Pastor Paul: After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst."

Pastor Greg: Meditation on the Fifth Word

Extinguishing the Candle

Pastor Paul: Lord Jesus - You gave Your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN: LSB 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verses 13-15)

- 13 Jesus, in Your thirst and pain,
While Your wounds Your lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

- 14 Thirst for us in mercy still;
All Your holy work fulfill;
Satisfy Your loving will:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

- 15 May we thirst Your love to know.
Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

THE SIXTH WORD: John 19:29-30 (video slide)

Pastor Paul: A bowl was there, full of cheap wine mixed with vinegar, so a sponge was soaked in it, put on stalk of hyssop and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished".

Pastor Greg: Meditation on the Sixth Word

Extinguishing the Candle

Pastor Paul: Lord Jesus - You gave Your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN: LSB 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verses 16-18)

- 16 Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All Your Father's will obeyed;
By Your sufferings perfect made:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 17 Save us in our soul's distress;
Be our help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 18 Brighten all our heav'nward way
With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

THE SEVENTH WORD: Luke 23:46 (video slide)

Pastor Paul: Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Pastor Greg: Meditation on the Seventh Word

Pastor Paul: Lord Jesus - You gave Your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

The Christ candle is removed into darkness symbolizing Jesus' burial into the dark tomb.

HYMN: LSB 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verses 19-21)

- 19 Jesus, all Your labor vast,
All Your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up Your soul at last:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 20 When the death shades round us low'r,
Guard us from the tempter's pow'r,
Keep us in that trial hour: Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 21 May Your life and death supply
Grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

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OFFERING | TREASURE BOX | PRAYER CARDS

SPECIAL MUSIC: "It Is Finished" Adam Lamb |
Benji Cowart | Kevin Buelmann

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 53:4-6, 9

Pastor Paul: Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.

People: But He was wounded for our transgressions and He was bruised for our iniquities. Upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole.

Pastor Paul: All we like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all.

People: He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death, although he had done no violence nor was any deceit in his mouth.

CLOSING SONG: "Power to Redeem" Justin Ebach | Lauren Daigle | Paul Mabury

THUNDER

