

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

"Good Friday"

March 29, 2024

7:00pm Worship



Our Mission:

REACHING OUT – SHARING GRACE

Our Purpose:

St. Andrew's Lutheran church is a family that loves to serve the Lord as we grow in faith, serving the neighborhood with glocal projects.

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Rev. Kimberlee A. Osborn, Pastor

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

Good Friday, March 29, 2024

GATHERING

The congregation gathers in silent prayer.

LITANY/CONFESSION

L There really is nothing good about this day.

C **There is no good to be found in violence, fear, injustice, or cruelty.**

L Yet we call this day "good" because God was there that day;

C **we call this day "good" because God is here with us today.**

L Believing that God is with us, let us have courage to hear this terrible story once again.

C **And let us worship God.**

A brief silence is kept.

L Lord, we do not want to walk with you in the garden.

C **We do not want to stay awake and pray with you.**

L We do not want to drink the cup.

C **We do not want to bear another's burden.**

L For that matter, we do not want to admit our own complicity.

C **We do not want to confess our wrongs.**

L But still, here we are, fallen people in a fallen world, waiting, longing, aching to be redeemed.

C **The wait is endless and exhausting. How long, O Lord? How much longer must we wait?**

L The Lord says: How long, O my people? How long will you turn away from me?

C **How long will we pursue our own delights that come at the expense of others?**

L How long will you recite my teachings without living them?

C **How long will we be entertained by violence?**

L How long will you gorge yourselves while others starve?

C **How long will we utter a muttered prayer in a tragedy because we're glad it didn't happen to us?**

L How long will you sin, O my people?

C **How long will you love us, O Lord?**

L In the quiet dark, we gather tonight to remember the saddest of our stories, to tell the truth about what happened that sad day so long ago, and to mourn what happened to Jesus. We look inside at where we have been culpable in adding to the wounds of the world and complicit to the suffering of humanity. Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

L We confess before you and one another our apathy and indifference to the suffering of others. Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

L We confess before you and one another our arrogance, our pride, and our selfish need to be right. Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

L Lord, we want to do better. We want to please you by serving you and our neighbor. Have mercy on us for continually falling short.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

L As we write our confessions to you and name our sins, hear our prayers. Hear our penitence and our repentance. Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

GATHERING SONG *"The Old Rugged Cross"*

During the song, the congregation is invited to confess their sins by writing them down on a piece of paper provided. These confessions are 100% between you and God. No one will see them. No one will read them. Be as honest before the Lord as you want to be.

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain*

*(Refrain) So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

*O the old rugged cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary (refrain)*

*In the old rugged cross stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me (refrain)*

*To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share (refrain)*

"The Old Rugged Cross" by George Bennard. © 1913. Words and Music: Public Domain.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AT THE CROSS

The congregation is invited to come forward and nail their confessions to the cross.

THE GOSPEL

John 18:1-19:42

*The Passion story of Christ is lengthy and will be read responsively by members of the congregation. **"ALL"** is to be read by the whole congregation.*

REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY "Were You There"

#353

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

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?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there?

BIDDING PRAYERS

Bidding Prayers are an ancient Good Friday tradition and are used tonight in Lutheran churches all over the world. Our prayers join the voices of all the Saints.

A Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility. *Silent Prayer*

L Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to preserve faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

A Let us pray for Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Bishop Scott Johnson, for our pastors and other ministers, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God. *Silent prayer*

L Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastors and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for those preparing for baptism, that God would make them responsive to his love, and give them new life in Christ. *Silent prayer*

L Almighty and eternal God, you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them a new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

A Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in one Church all those who know Christ as Lord.

Silent prayer

L Almighty and eternal God, you give your Church its unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation. *Silent prayer*

L Almighty and eternal God, empower those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find God who is the author and goal of our existence. *Silent prayer*

L Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, they may all recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom. *Silent prayer*

℟ Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere 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 that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, and disease. *Silent prayer*

℟ Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. 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. *Silent prayer*

℟ Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

☩ 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.

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

#351

*O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.*

*How pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish,
which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion
were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.*

*What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.*

*Lord, be my consolation;
shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing
die safely in thy love.*

COMMENDATION OF THE BODY OF JESUS

Similar words can be found in the ELW on p. 283. They were inspired by the "Commendation" words of the Lutheran Funeral Liturgy.

L Let us commend our Savior to the mercy of God, our Father and our Creator...Into your hands, O merciful God,
C **we commend your servant and our Savior, Jesus of Nazareth. Acknowledge, we pray, the humble obedience of the Good Shepherd of your sheep, the Lamb of God whom you sent to take away the sins of the world, your one and only begotten Son. Receive**

his sacrifice as an atonement for our sin, that through him we may ultimately be received into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of all the saints in light. Amen.

Pastor Kim exits with the cross. The congregation will follow in silence out of the Sanctuary and gather under the canopy outside for the Absolution, Adoration and Dismissal. The church doors will be shut and locked, symbolizing the closing and sealing of the tomb. The prayers are removed from the cross and burned.

ABSOLUTION

☩ Let our prayers rise up before you, O Lord, as incense; the lifting up of our hands as an offering to you. Amen.

℟ The Lord already knows what we have done or left undone. These confessions we have written tonight were already known to God, even before we wrote them down. But because of Jesus, sin no longer has any power over us. Because of Jesus, sin no longer separates us from the love of God. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins and release you from all that binds you, in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ Amen and Amen!

ADORATION OF THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST

℟ Behold the life-giving cross, on which was crucified the Savior of the whole world.

☩ We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for through your cross joy has come into the world.

L May God be merciful and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us. Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

C **We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for through your cross joy has come into the world.**

L Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

C **We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for through your cross joy has come into the world.**

DISMISSAL

L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

C **for it is through your suffering and death that you have redeemed the world.**

L Go in peace.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***Out of reverence for this holy night,
we depart the Sanctuary and parking lot in silence.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY WEEK OFFERINGS will be designated to World Central Kitchen.

FLOWER CROSS: Please bring fresh flowers for the Flower Cross on Easter Sunday. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the triumph of the cross, and a great photo op, too!

EASTER SUNDAY: A light breakfast will be served at 8am in the Atrium. Members and friends are invited to bring muffins, cinnamon rolls, and/or fruit to share. Worship will begin at 9am with the return of the elements to the altar. Holy Communion will be celebrated.