

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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April 18, 2025 † Good Friday Service

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 32 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Service tonight will be Posted to Our Website tomorrow by
midafternoon.**

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

(LSB 428)

1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Throned in light of ere worlds could be,
O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
Where the blood of Christ was shed,

Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing,
Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,

Per - fect God on thee has bled!
Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
All the suf - fer - ings of time!
Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860–1952

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responsive Reading

(Isaiah 53:4-8 NKJV)

- P** Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;
- C** ***Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.***
- P** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;
- C** ***The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.***
- P** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;
- C** ***And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.***
- P** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth;
- C** ***He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.***
- P** He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation?
- C** ***For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.***
- P** Praise and thanks be to Jesus for willingly suffering and dying for all our sins.
- C** ***May God help us to willingly give of ourselves in loving service to our Savior Jesus.***

Good Friday Prayer

- P** We pray:
- Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion You give us Your true body and blood as a remembrance of Your suffering and death on the cross and as an assurance of Your gift of forgiveness and salvation. Grant us so firmly to believe Your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

☞ O most merciful God, I confess to You with a sorrowful heart all my sins. I have sinned against You in what I have thought, said, and done. Have mercy upon me, I pray, and forgive me for Jesus' sake. Send Your Holy Spirit to help me know Your holy will and willingly obey it in the spirit of Christian love and thankfulness. Preserve me in the Christian faith so that I finally enter the eternal life in heaven through our Savior Jesus Christ.

☞ God our heavenly Father has been merciful to us, for He delivered up Jesus on the cross for our offenses and raised Him again for our justification. Since the Lord gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven to the Christian Church, saying that whoever sins you forgive in His stead they are forgiven, therefore according to Jesus' command, as a called servant of God I forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ Amen.

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

According to the Four Gospels (New King James Version)

VII -- The Burial of Our Lord

And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances and many women also were there, standing at a distance, looking on from afar, watching these things. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. They had followed Him from Galilee, ministering to Him. And there were many other women who had accompanied Him from Galilee and came with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Jesus; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done, that the Scripture

should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

And after these things, when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that, the day before the Sabbath, behold, there came a rich man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews. He was a good and just man, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a prominent council member, but he had not consented to their counsel and deed. This man took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, that he might take it away. And Pilate marveled that He was already dead, and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, Pilate gave him permission and commanded the body to be given to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus down. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and wrapped and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden Joseph's own new tomb, that was hewn out of the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore because of the Jew's Preparation Day -- that day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near -- because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, the mother of Jesus, sitting opposite the grave. They observed the tomb, and where and how His body was laid. And Joseph rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. And the women returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise'. Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead'. So the last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

The 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

C I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,
begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,
born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood
and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true!

Hymn 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

(LSB 425)



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

Isaiah's Passion History (NKJV)

Sermon Text: Isaiah 53:10-12 ¹⁰Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Sermon Theme: Isaiah Prophesies the Perfect Completion of Jesus' Mission of Salvation.

Offertory

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- 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 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

(LSB 617)



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this




they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

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Tune: Public domain

The Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

LSB 209


P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210 Latin:

"Lamb of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true us, Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

The Distribution

- ✠ For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our usher.

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211 Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



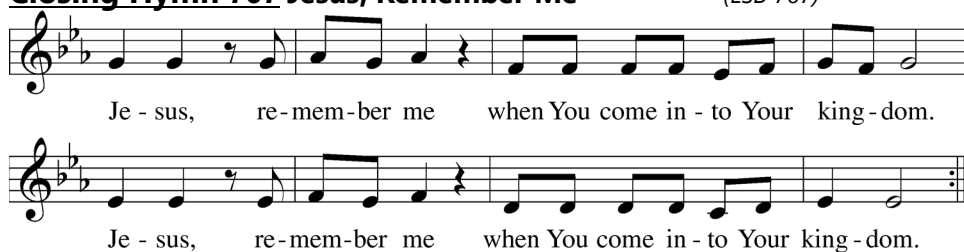
Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



Closing Hymn 767 Jesus, Remember Me *(LSB 767)*



Text: Luke 23:42

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-94

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today 4,18,25	6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday 4,20,25	10:00 a.m. Easter Festival Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Easter Brunch
4/21-25	SSLS Spring Break (No School)