

Good Friday

April 3rd, 2026

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK 15:1—15:47

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

^{15:1} As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ² Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” ³ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” ⁵ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷ Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸ So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹ Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹² Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³ They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ¹⁴ Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the

governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him,

and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead, and summoning the centurion he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth and, taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

This is the passion of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BRIEF SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY- O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED – ELW 351

BIDDING PRAYER

The assembly kneels or sits. The assisting minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). Silence for prayer follows each bid. The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence.

Let us pray for the holy church throughout the world.

(Silence)

Holy God, your glory is revealed in Jesus. Guide and gather the church by your Spirit. Help us to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and share the good news. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for Yehiel and Melissa, our bishops, and for Ryan, Ted, Jenny, Alyssa, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

(Silence)

Holy God, your Spirit makes us holy. Strengthen our bishops, pastors, and lay leaders. Help each of us in our vocations to do the work to which you have called us. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

(Silence)

Holy God, bless the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for our siblings in Christ.

(Silence)

Holy God, you give your church unity. Unite all the baptized 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.

(Silence)

Holy God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Help us to love our Jewish neighbors and join them in praising you. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for our Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and neighbors of other traditions.

(Silence)

Holy God, gather all who call to you with different names. End all violence and hatred between people of faith. Help us to love like Jesus does- regardless of tradition. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for our atheist and agnostic neighbors.

(Silence)

Holy God, in our brokenness the church has harmed many people and caused suspicion and distrust in our world. Help us all to heal from these hurts and trust that all may find a place in your beloved community. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

(Silence)

Holy God, the cosmos reflects your mystery and majesty. Teach us to love ourselves as a part of your continuing creation. Fulfill your promise of new life in all things. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

(Silence)

Holy God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. Give wisdom and humility to all public and private leaders to seek justice, peace, and freedom. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

(Silence)

Holy God, strengthen the weary and heartbroken. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, protect travelers, free the unjustly imprisoned, and save this world from violence, hunger, and disease. **We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

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.**

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.

Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of ^l the whole world.

Oh, come, let us ^l worship him.

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Behold the life-giving cross,

on which was hung the Savior of^l the whole world.

Oh, come, let us^l worship him.

The assembly may be seated.

REFRAIN FOR SOLEMN REPROACHES: HOLY GOD - ELW 160

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom,
and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert,
feeding you with manna on the way;
I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire,
but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;
I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit;
I made you branches of the vine and never left your side,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I poured out saving water from the rock,
but you gave me vinegar to drink;
I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;
I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed;
I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land,
but you opened my side with a spear;
I washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I lifted you up to the heights,
but you lifted me high on a cross;
I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I grafted you into my people Israel,
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters,
but I was hungry and you gave me no food,
thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

a brief silence

We adore you, O Christ, ¹ and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have re- ¹ deemed the world.

All depart in silence. If they have not done so earlier, worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.