



Celebrate

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

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 the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin. The servant pours himself out to death and is numbered with the transgressors, images that the early church saw as important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up
and shall be very high.
¹⁴Just as there were many who were
astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance,
beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
¹⁵so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because
of him,
for that which had not been told them
they shall see,
and that which they had not heard
they shall contemplate.
^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD
been revealed?
²For he grew up before him like a young
plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should
look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we
should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted
with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their
faces
he was despised, and we held him of
no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our
transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made
us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;

continued

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter
and like a sheep that before its
shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken
away.

Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the
living,
stricken for the transgression of my
people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush
him with affliction.

When you make his life an offering
for sin,

he shall see his offspring and shall
prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall
prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see;
he shall find satisfaction through his
knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall
make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion
with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the
strong,

because he poured out himself to death
and was numbered with the
transgressors,

yet he bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the
transgressors.

Psalm

Psalm 22; refrain, Ps. 22:1



My God, my God, why have you for - sa - ken me?

The Psalm is printed in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The refrain may be sung at the beginning of the psalm, at regular intervals, and at the end.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:16-25

In the death of Jesus, forgiveness of sins is accomplished and access to God is established. Hence, when we gather together for worship and when we love others, we experience anew the benefits of Jesus' death.

[After the Holy Spirit says,]

“This is the covenant that I will make
with them

after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their
minds,”

¹⁷and he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their
lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these,
there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, my brothers and sisters,
since we have confidence to enter the
sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the
new and living way that he opened for us
through the curtain (that is, through his
flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest
over the house of God, ²²let us approach
with a true heart in full assurance of
faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean
from an evil conscience and our bodies
washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold
fast to the confession of our hope with-
out wavering, for he who has promised

Second Reading, continued

is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together,

as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 [not printed]

In his death Jesus functions as great high priest who experiences temptation and suffering in order that we would receive mercy and find grace, because he is the source of true salvation.

Gospel

John 18:1—19:42 [not printed]

On Good Friday, the story of Jesus' passion—from his arrest to his burial—is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.

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, 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 *name/s* our bishop/s, for *names/s* our pastor/s, for *names/s* and 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.

continued

Bidding Prayer, continued

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.

The assisting minister continues.

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

All pray the Lord's Prayer.

Preparing for Next Week

Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (commemoration of Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589) Romans 6:3-11. **Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day** Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 *or* Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10 *or* John 20:1-18.

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