

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reverend Stephen M. Heuser

April 18, 2025 A.D.

Good Friday

Chief Service of Darkness

** Please Stand.*

DUE TO THE PENITENTIAL NATURE OF HOLY WEEK OUR SERVICE IS SPOKEN, EXCEPT FOR THE HYMNS.

Prayerful reflective silence is most appropriate prior to the service.

Prayers for worship may be found inside the front cover of the hymnal

*Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men and to suffer death on the cross; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament reading

P The Old Testament Reading for Good Friday is from the 52nd and 53rd chapters of Isaiah

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Silence

Choir

*Collect

P Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Epistle Reading

P The Epistle is from the 4th and 5th chapters of Hebrews

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Silence

*Collect

P Almighty and everlasting God, who willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross, that You might remove from us the power of the adversary, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Choir

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Hymn: #440 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now,"



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

5

**If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!**

6

**Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.**

P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

After each reading is said:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading: John 18:1-11 (Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus)

Hymn: #450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” st. 1

**O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief & 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.**

Reading: John 18:12-27 (Jesus before the High Priest & the Peters Denial)

Hymn: #450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” st. 2

**How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

Reading: John 18:28-40 (Jesus before Pilate)

Hymn: #450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” st. 3

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.**

Reading: John 19:1-16a (Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion)

Hymn: #450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” st. 4

**My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.**

Please Rise/Kneel

***Reading: John 19:16b-24** (The Crucifixion of Jesus)

***Hymn: #450** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” st. 5

**What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

***Reading: John 19:25-30** (Jesus' Mother and His Death)

***Hymn: #450** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” st. 6

**My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!**

***Reading: John 19:31-37** (Jesus' Side Is Pierced)

***Hymn: #450** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” st. 7

**Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.**

Sermon

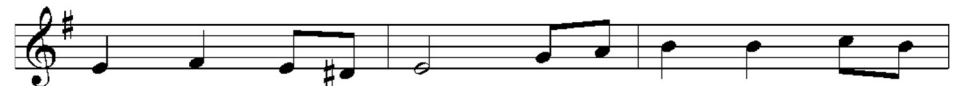
Hymn of the Day #451 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan - ing, Was there ev - er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - spect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

***Bidding Prayer** (*each petition ends*)

P Through Jesus Christ our Lord...

C Amen

P Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

C **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.**

***The Procession & Veneration of Christ on the Cross**

Please turn to face the cross, many still choose to practice the ancient rite of "bowing the head" as the cross passes. This practice is especially appropriate on Good Friday.

***Sentence & Responses** (*repeated three times during the Procession*)

P Behold the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C **Oh, come, let us worship Him.**

The REPROACHES

(are the words of the Lord against His people, the reply is a plea for mercy).

K Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

Choir *Holy Lord God, holy & mighty God, holy & most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.*

Hymn: #434 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy," st. 1

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.**

**All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus**

K Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

Choir *Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.*

Hymn: #434 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy," st. 2

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.**

**All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

K Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. What more could I have done for My vineyard that I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people. *Is. 5:2-4*

Choir *Holy Lord God, holy & mighty God, holy & most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.*

Hymn: #434 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy," st. 3

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.**

**All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

***Adoration**

P We adore You, O Lord, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection.

C **For behold, by the wood of Your cross joy has come into all the world.**

P God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

C **We adore You, O Lord, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection.**

P For behold, by the wood of Your cross joy has come into all the world.

***Concluding Collect**

P We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people, who have had the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now & forever.

C Amen.

***Hymn #452 “O Perfect Life of Love”**



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;
3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;
4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul
5 In per - fect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.
O all - a - ton - ing Sac - ri - fice, I cling by faith to Thee.

6 **In ev'ry time of need, Before the judgment throne,
Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, Thy merits, not mine own.**

7 **Yet work, O Lord, in me As Thou for me hast wrought;
And let my love the answer be To grace Thy love has brought.**

It is at the foot of the cross we face the reality of our sinful nature and the fullness of God's love for each of us. Those who are willing may approach the cross and place a nail in it. Please do so in silence.