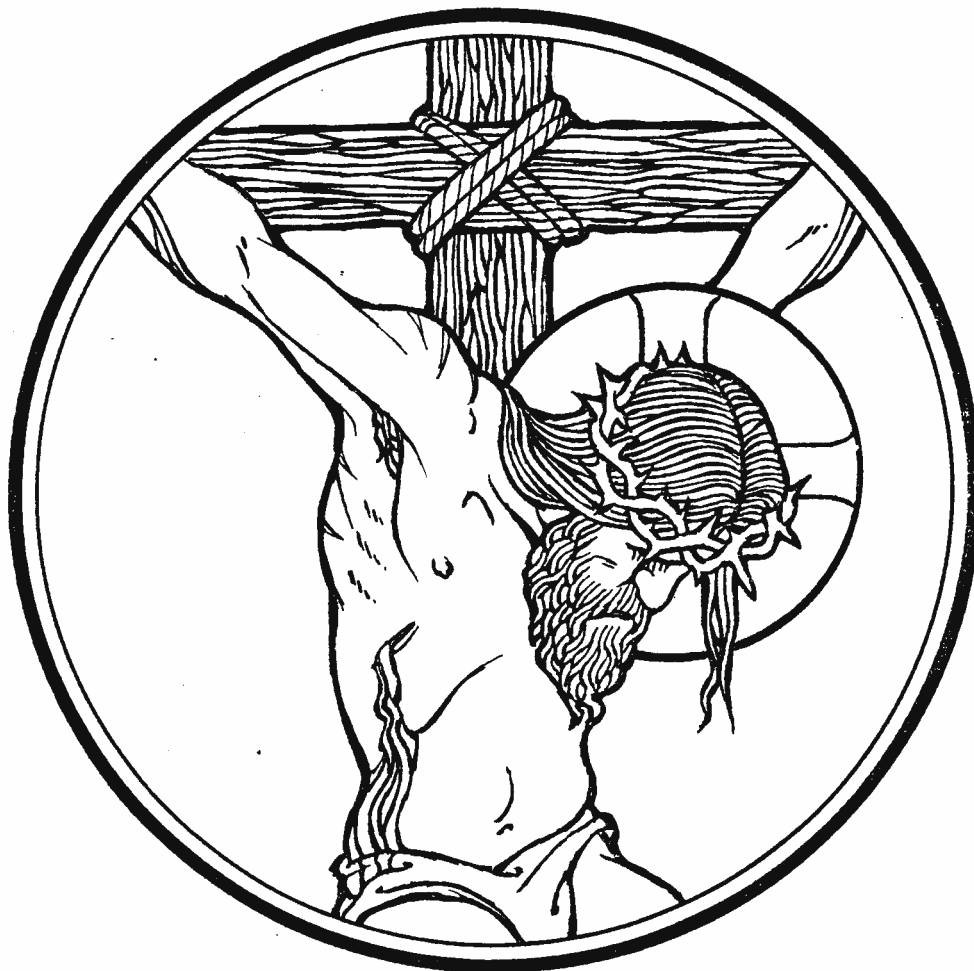


Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Good Friday

Chief Service

April 18, 2025

Service of the Word

The congregation and pastors enter in silence.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same 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

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us?
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,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.
⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
⁹And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
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;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Collect

P Let us pray.
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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and

tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Collect

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so 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.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Hymn #440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

st. 1

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

The congregation reads the bold portions.

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "*Whom do you seek?*" ⁵They answered him, "**Jesus of Nazareth.**" Jesus said to them, "*I am he.*" Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, "*Whom do you seek?*" And they said, "**Jesus of Nazareth.**" ⁸Jesus answered, "*I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.*" ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "*Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.*" ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "*Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?*"

Hymn #440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

sts. 2-3

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people. ¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "**You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?**" He said, "**I am**

not."¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. ¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, "*I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret.*"²¹*Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.*"²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "**Is that how you answer the high priest?**"²³Jesus answered him, "*If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?*"²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "**You also are not one of his disciples, are you?**" He denied it and said, "**I am not.**"²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "**Did I not see you in the garden with him?**"²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Hymn #440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

sts. 4–5

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "**What accusation do you bring against this man?**"³⁰They answered him, "**If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.**"³¹Pilate said to them, "**Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.**" The Jews said to him, "**It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.**"³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "**Are you the King of the Jews?**"³⁴Jesus answered, "*Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?*"³⁵Pilate answered, "**Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?**"³⁶Jesus answered, "*My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.*"³⁷Then Pilate said to him, "**So you are a king?**" Jesus answered, "*You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.*"³⁸Pilate said to him, "**What is truth?**" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "**I find no guilt in him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?**"⁴⁰They cried out again, "**Not this man, but Barabbas!**" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Hymn #440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

st. 6

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "**Hail, King of the Jews!**" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "**See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.**"⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "**Behold the man!**"⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "**Crucify him, crucify him!**" Pilate said to

them, **“Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.”**⁷The Jews answered him, **“We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.”**⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, **“Where are you from?”** But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, **“You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”**¹¹Jesus answered him, *“You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”* ¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, **“If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”**¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, **“Behold your King!”**¹⁵They cried out, **“Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”** Pilate said to them, **“Shall I crucify your King?”** The chief priests answered, **“We have no king but Caesar.”**¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Hymn #450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

st. 1

Please stand for the next two sections in honor of Jesus’ crucifixion and death.

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, **“Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”**²²Pilate answered, **“What I have written I have written.”** ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, **“Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.”** This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things.

Hymn #450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 2–3

²⁵Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, *“Woman, behold, your son!”*²⁷Then he said to the disciple, *“Behold, your mother!”* And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. ²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), *“I thirst.”*²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, *“It is finished,”* and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*The bell will ring thirty-three times, once for each year of our Lord's earthly life.
The pastor and assistants will kneel and all may bow their heads in reverence and gratitude.*

Hymn #450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 4–5

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would 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. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” ³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Hymn #450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 6–7

Sermon

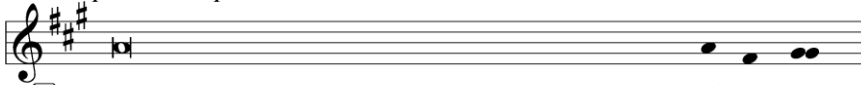
Hymn #453 Upon the Cross Extended

Bidding Prayer

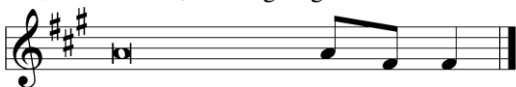
The Procession of the Cross

Please stand and face the back of the church, then turn as the cross moves forward.

This response is repeated three times:



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



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

*Following the final response, the pastor and assistants will kneel.
All may bow their heads in reverence and gratitude.*

Reproaches

This is the Lord speaking to His people, the Church. The pastor sings the part of Christ while the choir/kantor and congregation responds with prayers for mercy.

P 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.

A Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and 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

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!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546
Text: Public domain

P 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.

A 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

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!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546
Text: Public domain

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than 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.

A Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and 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

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!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546
Text: Public domain

Adoration of Christ



C We adore You, | O Lord,*
and we praise and glorify Your holy resur- | rection.
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross*
joy has come into | all the world.
God be merciful to us and | bless us,*
and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy up- | on us.
We adore You, | O Lord,*
and we praise and glorify Your holy resur- | rection.
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross*
joy has come into | all the world.

Hymn #454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

sts. 1–4

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- 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 Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. **Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.**

Hymn #439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

Concluding Collect

P Let us pray.

We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held 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 and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn #455 The Royal Banners Forward Go

The pastor and congregation leave in silence.

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching

Celebrant

Vicar

Fieldworker

Deaconess

Head Elder

Elders on Duty

Kantor

Altar Guild Chairman

Ushers

Rev. Samuel Wirgau

Rev. Anthony Dodgers

Sem. Morgan Phillips

Sem. Brandon Streeks

Wendy Boehm

Glen Werling

Steve Conrad and Bruce Meyer

Richard Brinkley

Cheryl Louison and Deann Oliver

Jared Conrad, Mike Nahrwold, Jacob Meyer

Trent Bultemeier, Andrew Stoppenhagen, Nathanael Werling, Jacob Werling

It is finished

JOHN 19:30

