



**✠ Good Friday ✠**  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**April 18, 2025, 1:00 pm**

**WELCOME**

Welcome to our guests and members as we gather for worship today.  
**Please place your name in our red “Record of Fellowship” books.**

**THE RINGING OF THE BELL** (*Please remain seated*)

**✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

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.**

**Epistle**

*Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9*

<sup>14</sup>Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For 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. <sup>16</sup>Let 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. . . .

<sup>7</sup>In 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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup>And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

- 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**

### **440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now**

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now  
On Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow  
For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
May the image cherish  
Of Your suffering, pain, and death  
That I may not perish.

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### **The betrayal and arrest of Jesus**

*John 18:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>When 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. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>So 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. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup>They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." <sup>10</sup>Then 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.) <sup>11</sup>So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

## 450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

1 O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and 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.

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## Jesus before the High Priest

*John 18:12–27*

<sup>12</sup>So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

<sup>15</sup>Simon 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, <sup>16</sup>but 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. <sup>17</sup>The 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.” <sup>18</sup>Now 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.

<sup>19</sup>The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus 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. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup>When 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?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus 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?”

<sup>24</sup>Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup>Now 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.” <sup>26</sup>One 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?" <sup>27</sup>Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

#### **450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

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.

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#### **Jesus before Pilate**

*John 18:28–40*

<sup>28</sup>Then 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. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate 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." <sup>32</sup>This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup>So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus 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."

<sup>37</sup>Then 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." <sup>38</sup>Pilate 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. <sup>39</sup>But 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?" <sup>40</sup>They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

#### **450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

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.

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#### **Jesus prepared for crucifixion**

*John 19:1–16*

<sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup>Pilate 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." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" <sup>6</sup>When 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." <sup>7</sup>The 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." <sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>So 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?" <sup>11</sup>Jesus 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."

<sup>12</sup>From 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." <sup>13</sup>So 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. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" <sup>15</sup>They 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." <sup>16</sup>So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

#### **450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

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.

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#### **The crucifixion of Jesus**

*John 19:16–24*

So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup>and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

<sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup>Many 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. <sup>21</sup>So 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.'" <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

<sup>23</sup>When 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, <sup>24</sup>so 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.

#### **450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

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.

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## **Jesus' mother and His death**

*John 19:25–30*

<sup>25</sup>but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup>A 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. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## **450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

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!

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## **Jesus' side is pierced**

*John 19:31–42*

<sup>31</sup>Since 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. <sup>32</sup>So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a



spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup>He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” <sup>37</sup>And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

<sup>38</sup>After 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. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. <sup>40</sup>So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now 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. <sup>42</sup>So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

#### **450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

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.

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#### **SERMON**

#### **OFFERING**

#### **THE PRAYERS**

P Let us pray.  
Almighty and everlasting God, You have revealed Your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to Your Word so that, in every adversity, we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior’s work, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, You rule over all things for the good of Your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give Your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, You make us Your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism that each day they may die to sin and rise to live a new and holy life, through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, You have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that Your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to Your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, Your Son was lifted up on the cross so that He might draw all people to Himself. Through the proclamation of Your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are Your very own, that we may join together around Your throne in glory to praise and thank You forever, through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving You whose name we bear. We ask that You would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and faith so that they may be glad with us and find joy in Your love, through Christ our Lord.

**C    Amen.**

**P    Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son into the world to bear our grief and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for Your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation so that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in Your grace, through Christ our Lord.**

**C    Amen.**

## **✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠**

### **THE 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 INSTITUTION**

**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 is my ✠ blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

### **THE PEACE**

**P    The ✠ peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**C    Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.*

*Please note that “gluten free” communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant “gluten free” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant “clear” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.*

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (PLEASE REFER TO THE HYMNAL)**

**456 - Were You There**

**451 - Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted**

**550 - Lamb of God**

## **CONCLUDING COLLECT**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** 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. Amen.

*(All are invited to depart in silence, meditating  
on our Lord's saving Passion.)*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Good Friday, Chief Service from Lutheran Service Book

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## **ASSISTING AT WORSHIP**

**Preacher**  
**Presiding Minister**

**Rev. Patrick Niles**  
**Rev. Patrick Niles**

**Organist**

**Sandy Kasten**

**Communion Assistants**

**Bill Lang & Doug Hasenstein**

**Student Assistant**

**(A) Alex Ehaney**