



HOLY WEEK

LOOK UP

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | *Jordan, Minnesota*

April 3, 2026

TODAY'S THEME – LOOK UP TO GET A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

On Good Friday, we remember the crucifixion and death of our Lord. The Son of Man was lifted up on the cross to the glory of God and for our salvation. While others see a wounded man, we see the source of eternal salvation. We pray to him with confidence, remembering what he has done for us.

Fulfillment of Prophecy

After the reading of each of the Seven Words, the congregation speaks responsively with the pastor. Those responses are prophecies fulfilled in the last words or relevant allusions to Scripture. The references for each of them are in italics before the responsive reading. A candle is extinguished for each word as Jesus' death draws closer until darkness. The Paschal candle is returned to the chancel lit foreshadowing Christ's return to life.

At the end of worship today the minister will exit in silence. Congregants may remain for prayer and leave quietly when ready. There will be no ushers ushering people out.

Holy Week Schedule

- April 4 | 7:00 pm – Easter Vigil (Held at St. Croix Academy, West St. Paul)
- April 5 | Easter Sunday
 - 6:30 am – Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
 - 7:45 am – Easter Breakfast
 - 8:30 am – Easter Egg Hunt
 - 9:00 am – Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

¹³Look, my servant will succeed. He will rise. He will be lifted up. He will be highly exalted. ¹⁴Just as many were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like a man, and his form was disfigured more than any other person—¹⁵so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him, because they will see something they had never been told before, and they will understand something they had never heard before. ¹Who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot and like a root from dry ground. He had no attractiveness and no majesty. When we saw him, nothing about his appearance made us desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man who knew grief, who was well acquainted with suffering. Like someone whom people cannot bear to look at, he was despised, and we thought nothing of him. ⁴Surely he was taking up our weaknesses, and he was carrying our sufferings. We thought it was because of God that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted, ⁵but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced. He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers, he did not open his mouth. ⁸He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice, and of his generation, who even cared? So, he was cut off from the land of the living. He was struck because of the rebellion of my people. ⁹They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked, but he was given a grave with the rich in his death, because he had done no violence, and no deceit was in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and to allow him to suffer.

Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring. He will prolong his days, and the LORD's gracious plan will succeed in his hand. ¹¹After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life. He will provide satisfaction. Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many, for he himself carried their guilt. ¹²Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great, and with the strong he will share plunder, because he poured out his life to death, and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners. He himself carried the sin of many, and he intercedes for the rebels.

Be seated

Choir

When I Survey the wondrous Cross

First Word

Luke 23:32–34

³²Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. ³³When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” They cast lots to divide his garments among them.

Psalm 22 & Isaiah 53

Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me;
They pierce my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.

He bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Gracious Savior, you did not strike back with revenge against your enemies as they ridiculed and crucified you but prayed for their forgiveness. In your compassion, pardon us for our secret sins and sins we do not discern, and enlighten us to know and do your will.
Amen.

The first candle is extinguished.

Handbells

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Second Word

Luke 23:35-43

³⁵The people stood watching. The rulers were ridiculing him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also made fun of him. Coming up to him, they offered him sour wine, ³⁷saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription written above him: “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, “Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Psalm 22 & Psalm 106

All who see me mock me;
They hurl insults, shaking their heads.

“He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people.
Come to my aid when you save them.

Mighty Redeemer, remember us as we walk through the darkest valleys of life and realize that our time on earth is ending. Stay close to us when we feel the pain and loneliness of dying and take away our fears with your certain promise of paradise.
Amen.

The second candle is extinguished.

The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 2

2 On you, my King, de - pend - ing, I'm rid of
all my sins! My fi - nal day here end - ing,
my first in heav'n be - gins. As you have tru - ly
spo - ken, in par - a - dise I'll be, with you in
bliss un - bro - ken— you will re - mem - ber me.

Third Word

John 19:25–27

²⁵Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

Luke 2 & Matthew 12

This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.
And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?

Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

Precious Jesus, you consider us friends and care about the needs of our bodies and souls. Keep us in your care as we walk the road of life and provide the blessings we need to gain safety, contentment, and joy in your service.

Amen.

The third candle is extinguished.

The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 3

3 A Sav - ior like no oth - er, all self - con -
cern de - nied, you served your griev - ing moth - er
while you were cru - ci - fied. My sin had made me
filth - y, but you, the per - fect child, were des - ig -
nat - ed guilt - y, and I am rec - on - ciled.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in treble clef. The first staff begins with a '3' indicating a triplet. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (half). The second staff notes: G4 (half), F4 (half), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter). The third staff notes: G4 (half), F4 (half), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), followed by a quarter rest, then G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The fourth staff notes: G4 (half), F4 (half), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (half). The fifth staff notes: G4 (half), F4 (half), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (half), ending with a double bar line.

Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45, 46

⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Psalm 2 & Amos 8

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

My God, I cry out by day but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

“In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “I will make the sun go down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight.”

Lord Jesus, you endured the horrific penalty of our sins as your Father turned his face from you on the cross. Compel us to see in your sacrifice the dreadful nature of sin and call us to acknowledge the amazing depth of your love. Overcome our shame, dear Savior, and give us grateful faith.

Amen.

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Choir

What Wondrous Love Is This

Fifth Word

John 19:28, 29

²⁸After this, when he knew that all things necessary for the Scripture to be fulfilled had now been accomplished, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched.

They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Dear Jesus, as our brother on earth you endured the agony of pain that besieged your body when your sacrifice was complete. Knowing our experiences, hover over us with your care and compassion when our bodies and hearts are hurting. Provide us with strength that we may confess you with confidence and power.

Amen.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 5

5 My Lord, in death's dark val - ley, both soul and
bod - y drained, one drink would help you ral - ly
what lit - tle strength re - maind to raise your voice in
vic - t'ry, to sound your foe's de - feat— the high - est

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff begins with a '5' and contains the lyrics 'My Lord, in death's dark val - ley, both soul and'. The second staff continues with 'bod - y drained, one drink would help you ral - ly'. The third staff continues with 'what lit - tle strength re - maind to raise your voice in'. The fourth staff concludes with 'vic - t'ry, to sound your foe's de - feat— the high - est'. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.



Stand

Sixth Word

John 19:30

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished!” Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

Zechariah 13, 9, 3

On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

Because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.
I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

Gracious Redeemer, you paid the full price for our redemption and have released us forever from the hold of Satan, the power of sin, and the fear of death. Protect us from the devil’s claim that we need to do more and from the accusation of our consciences that we have not done enough. Lead us to place our entire confidence in you and to live our lives secure in your grace.
Amen.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 6

6 Though sin's most le - thal wa - ges to me, O
Christ, were due, the guilt of all the a - ges
came crash - ing down on you. Most sure - ly, "It is
fin - ished"—my debt is ful - ly paid; my joy is
un - di - min - ished; my heart is un - a - fraid.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1546–1612

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Seventh Word

Luke 23:44–46

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Psalm 31 & Psalm 22 & Isaiah 53

Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.
He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Loving Savior, at the moment of your death you gave yourself into the loving hands of your Father. As we close our eyes in death, lead us to commit our bodies and souls to him who has summoned us by name and made us his own because of you and your love. Then, we pray, let us depart in peace.

Amen.

The seventh candle is extinguished.

436 The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 7

7 My death will be tri - um - phant no mat - ter
how I die; Lord Je - sus, in that in - stant
es - cort my soul on high in - to my Fa - ther's
keep - ing, all - blame - less and all - blest, like wak - ing
up from sleep - ing, his hands my place of rest.

Stand

Reading

John 19:31–42

³¹Since it was the Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath (because that Sabbath was a particularly important day). They asked Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who was crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other man. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵The one who saw it has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. ³⁶Indeed, these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷Again another Scripture says, "They will look at the one they pierced."

³⁸After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him remove Jesus' body. When Pilate gave him permission, he came and took Jesus' body away. ³⁹Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds.

⁴⁰They took Jesus' body and bound it with linen strips along with the spices, in accord with Jewish burial customs.

⁴¹There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified. And in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²So they laid Jesus there, because it was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was near.

Be seated

Silence for meditation

37 Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labor

CW 437

The Offering

During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

Stand

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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.

Be seated

A loud sound is heard in the sanctuary. Known as the Strepitus, this sound represents the rending of Jesus' tomb. It is opened, not to "let Jesus out" but to show that he is alive. The appearance of the burning Paschal candle foreshadows Christ's return to life.

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

CW 817 st. 3

3 Lord, let at last thine an - gels come, to A - br'ham's
bos - om bear me home that I may die un - fear - ing;
and in its nar - row cham - ber keep my bod - y
safe in peace - ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.
And then from death a - wak - en me that these mine eyes with
joy may see, O Son of God, thy glo - rious face, my Sav - ior
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -
tend, my prayer at - tend, and I will praise thee with - out end.

Dismissal

Brothers and sisters, go in peace.

Amen.