

Bidding Prayers: P: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

C: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church. Help us to practice what we preach. Help us to be your hands and feet loving the world. In word and deed may we bring the good news Jesus Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for leaders in the church doing God's work in our community.

C: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit sends the church to leave its doors & serve your world. Strengthen & uphold civil employees, teachers, administrators, medical workers, day laborers, agricultural workers, parents, builders, & all who work each day to serve your Kingdom on earth. Keep us in health & safety in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

C: Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith & understanding of those preparing for baptism. Bind parents to promises made in baptism. Grow our children of God into adults with mature faith. Keeps us in faith & communion with your holy Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

C: 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, & keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. P: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

C: Almighty & eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham & your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called & elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. P: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

C: 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, & make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. P: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

C: 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.

P: Let us pray for God's creation.

C: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and help us to protect the world you made for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

C: 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. P: Let us pray for those in need.

C: 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.

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

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; & forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; & lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, & the glory, forever & ever. Amen.

Adoration of the Cross: *During the adoration of the cross the altar is stripped of all paraments & articles of worship. The stripping of the altar symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by His disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life. The altar is left bare until Easter Sunday when we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death as our victory in Him.*

P: Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship him. *Silence

P: Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship him. *Silence

P: Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship him. *Silence

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. **C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

The ministers and musicians leave in silence. All are invited to hammer confessions or prayer requests into the cross using the nails and hammers provided. Allow God to hold what brings death as we look for the promise of life to come. Worshipers may remain for meditation and prayer. Please leave in silence.



St. Luke Lutheran Church
Pastor Eric Hanson
March 29, 2024 • 6:45PM

Gathering *(All gather in silence)*

Debbi St. John, Pianist

Welcome

Prayer of the Day: P: Merciful God,

C: Your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit it, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Passion According to St. John

First Reading: John 18:1-11 ¹When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. ⁴Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" ⁵"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." ⁹This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

First candle may be extinguished.

Hymn: "Lamb of God" #336 *(congregation)*

Verse 1: Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Verse 2: Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died. The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. [Refrain]

Verse 3: I was so lost. I should have died, but you have brought me to your side to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. [Refrain]

The Second Reading: John 18:12-27 ¹²Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people. ¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, ¹⁶but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. ¹⁷"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." ¹⁸It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself. ¹⁹Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said." ²²When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. ²³"If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." ²⁶One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Second candle may be extinguished. - **Hymn: "Jesus Loves Me"** solo by Issie Mitchell

The Third Reading: John 18:28-40 ²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” ³⁰ “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” ³¹ Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. ³² This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. ³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” ³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” ³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” ³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” ³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” ³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews?’” ⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

Third candle may be extinguished.

Hymn: “Jesus Remember Me” #616 (Congregation)

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

The Fourth Reading: John 19:1-6a (Congregation reads together)

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face. ⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” ⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Fourth candle may be extinguished. - **Hymn: “Via Dolorosa”** solo by Michelle Matthees

The Fifth Reading: John 19:8-16a ⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹ and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” ¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” ¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. ¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. ¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

Fifth candle may be extinguished.

Hymn: “Create In Me” (Congregation)

Chorus: Create in me a clean heart, Create in me a clean heart.

Vs 1: Have mercy on me God in your compassion, Remove my sin, wash me from my guilt.

Vs 2: O purify my heart and teach me wisdom, Then I shall be cleaner than the snow.

Vs 3: O give me back the joy of your salvation, A willing spirit sustain in me.

The Sixth Reading: John 19:16b-22 ¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

Sixth candle may be extinguished.

Hymn: “The Old Rugged Cross”

**Vs 1: On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest & best for a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**Refrain: So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.**

**Vs 2: O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for
me; for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]**

**Vs 3: In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see,
for ‘twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain]**

The Seventh Reading: John 19:23-30 ²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴ “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did. ²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” ²⁷ and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. ²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A 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. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Seventh candle may be extinguished. - **Hymn: “Alas Did My Savior Bleed”** sung by Kris Pearson

The Eighth Reading: John 19:31-42 ³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.” ³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Eighth candle may be extinguished. - **Hymn: “There’s A Cross”** solo by Sara Strusz

Short Reflection: Pastor Eric Hanson *Silence for reflection follows

Hymn: “Were You There” (Congregation)

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.

Vs 1: Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Refrain: Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Vs 2: Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree. [R]

Vs 3: Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there when they pierced him in the side? [R]

Vs 4: Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Were you there when the sun refused to shine? [R]

Vs 5: Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? [R]

Offertory Response: “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong”. Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.

Offering Prayer: P: Let us Pray together,

C: Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.