



**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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**Good Friday**

**March 29, 2024**

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**Welcome!** We're glad you're here. Our congregation enjoys the worshiping family, and children who act up are never viewed as a bother. Parents can calm a restless child in the lobby if they desire. Worship screens, speakers and seating are also located in the lobby for your convenience. A private parents' room is available in the alcove to your left as you exit the chapel.

**Restrooms** are located to the left and right of the water fountain in the lobby.

**Questions?** If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, please feel free to speak with a pastor, or visit us online at [cocidaho.org](http://cocidaho.org).

## Explanation of Tonight's Service

**Tonight's theme is straight-forward.** Two thousand years ago the Creator of this world took on human flesh to die for the sins of the very people he created. Those who believe in Jesus as their Savior will never face eternal punishment for their sins; they have eternal life. God's loving, substitutionary death motivates Christians world-wide to meet on this day annually to be reassured that the payment for their sins "IS FINISHED!" (*John 19:30*)

Please take note of the following elements of this special service:

**Silence:** We ask those attending to observe silence both before and after worship, to allow for quiet contemplation, and out of respect for Christ's suffering. There will be no pre-service or post-service music.

**Seven Words:** Tonight's service revolves around contemplating Christ's final words spoken from the cross. Pastor Hein will present meditative introductions to each reading.

**Noises:** Immediately following each reading there will be the sound of pounding metal to represent the nails pounded into Christ's body. The service ends with another loud sound, stone on stone, to represent the closing of Christ's tomb.

**Prayers:** "The Bidding Prayers" are an ancient set of Christian prayers traditionally spoken on Good Friday, calling worshipers to pray on behalf of others throughout the world. These will follow each reading.

**Darkness:** Dimmed lighting is used tonight to remind us of the severity of sin and of the darkness that descended at the death of Jesus.

Although tonight's service is very solemn in nature, we do worship joyfully as God's loved and forgiven people. This is not a funeral service for our Lord. We worship in adoration and thanksgiving for the perfect life that Jesus offered as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

# WORSHIP

*Please observe silence upon entering worship this evening. This is to allow for quiet contemplation of our Savior's death, and out of respect for his suffering.*

## Opening Song

## “Drawn to the Cross”

*Hymn #387:1,3*

*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:18*

## The Prophesied Sacrifice

## Isaiah 53

Pastor: Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
<sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

**All: <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

**6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.**

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

**<sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.**

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

**<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.  
For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.**

*moment for silent reflection*

## Prayer for Good Friday

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, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## The First Word

Luke 23:26-34

*“Father, forgive them...”*

<sup>26</sup> As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. <sup>28</sup> Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.

<sup>29</sup> For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’

<sup>30</sup> Then “they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!””

<sup>31</sup> For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” <sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said,

**“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”**

And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

*Following each reading throughout the service, you will hear the pounding of steel three times. This represents the pounding of nails into the left hand, right hand, and feet of Jesus when he was crucified.*

## **The Bidding Prayer**

*The Bidding Prayer is an ancient element of the Service of Seven Words. The pastor bids the congregation to bring prayers to their Savior, not just on behalf of themselves, but on behalf of people throughout the whole world.*

Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

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.

**Amen.**

*moment for silent reflection*

## **Song of Response**

**“What Grace Is This”**

*On the screens, stanzas 1,2,4*

## The Second Word

Luke 23:38-43

*“Today you will be with me in paradise.”*

<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read:

THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him,

**“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

## The Bidding Prayer

Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial.

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

**Amen.**

*moment for silent reflection*

## Song of Response

**“The Power of the Cross”**

*On the screens, stanzas 1,2,4*



## The Third Word

John 19:25-27

*“Woman, here is your son...”*

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her,

**“Woman, here is your son,” <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”**

From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

## The Bidding Prayer

Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

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 again to live new and holy lives, through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*moment for silent reflection*

**Song of Response “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

*Hymn #125:1,3,4*

## The Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45-49

*“My God, my God...”*

<sup>45</sup> From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

<sup>46</sup> About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”* (*which means*

**“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**).

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

## The Bidding Prayer

Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us.

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.

**Amen.**

*moment for silent reflection*

## Song of Response

**“His Robes for Mine”**

*Sung by the vocalist*

## The Fifth Word

John 19:28-29

*"I am thirsty."*

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said,

**"I am thirsty."**

<sup>29</sup> 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.

## The Bidding Prayer

Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

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.

**Amen.**

*moment for silent reflection*

## Song of Response "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

*On the screens, stanzas 1-3*

*"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."*

*Ephesians 3:17-19*

## The Sixth Word

John 19:30

*"It is finished."*

<sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said,

**"It is finished."**

With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## The Bidding Prayer

Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

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.

**Amen.**

*moment for silent reflection*

## Song of Response

**"All Sufficient Merit"**

*On the screens, stanzas 1-3*

## The Seventh Word

Luke 23:44-46

*“Father, into your hands...”*

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice,

**“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”**

When he had said this, he breathed his last.

## The Final Bidding Prayer

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, in the words he himself has taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## Song of Response

## “Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labors”

*On screens, stanzas 1,3*

*With his victory accomplished on the cross and credited to us in Holy Baptism, Christians bid peaceful rest to their Savior as they anticipate their celebration of his glorious resurrection on Easter dawn.*



*After a moment of silence, a loud sound is made which represents the closing of Christ's tomb. This sound is known as the “strepitus,” which is Latin for “noise.” Ending Good Friday meditations with this sound is an ancient Christian tradition, a reminder of Christ being sealed in his tomb until Easter.*

*As we sit in silence and dusk turns to darkness, we contemplate the love Jesus has for each of us, to have died a criminal's death so that we could spend eternity in heaven.*

*Following the “strepitus,” the congregation is asked to disperse in silence. You may also remain for personal prayer and meditation before leaving quietly.*



Please join us Sunday morning  
for the conclusion of tonight's service!

### **Easter Sunday Worship**

**Boise Campus, 8:30 & 11:00 am**

*breakfast between services, 9:30-10:45 am*

*kids' egg hunt at 10:20 am*

**Nampa Campus, 9:30 & 11:30 am**

*brunch and kids' egg hunt between services*