

## Good Friday: April 7, 2023- Messiah and St. Peter Lutheran Churches

"The saint by his/her faith, by his/her trust knows that salvation, God's victory and humankind's redemption, is at hand, is now, is in this moment; and this being so—no one need ever fear life or death ever again. Every night is Christmas Eve and every dawn is Easter, because Jesus Christ dies for us and with us on every Good Friday." Excerpt taken from a Sabbath devotional by Arnold Kenseth.

Let us pray. Merciful God, **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,** through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Reading**

**John 18:1-14**

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "*Whom are you looking for?*" They answered, "**Jesus of Nazareth.**" **Jesus replied, "I am he."** **Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."** **Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go."** **This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."** **Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"**

The lecterns and altar are stripped of items and paraments.

Two lit candles remain.

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas,

the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

### **Hymn #98 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**

**John 18: 19-24, 28-37** Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, *"I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said."* When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, **"Is that how you answer the high priest?"** Jesus answered, *"If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"* Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest. Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, **"What accusation do you bring against this man?"** They answered, **"If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."** Pilate said to them, **"Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."** The Jews replied, **"We are not permitted to put anyone to death."** (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, **"Are you the King of the Jews?"** Jesus answered, *"Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"* Pilate replied, **"I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"** Jesus answered, *"My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."* Pilate asked him, **"So you are a king?"** Jesus answered, *"You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."*

### **Hymn #123**

### **Ah, Holy Jesus**

**John 19:1-3** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a

purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, **“Hail, King of the Jews!”** and striking him on the face.

**Isaiah 52:13--53:12** See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—**So he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.** Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For 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, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. **He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.**

**John 19:16-30** After Pilate handed over Jesus to be crucified, they took and made him carry the cross by himself out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, **“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”** Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, **“Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”** Pilate answered, **“What I have written I have written.”** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, **“Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.”** This was to fulfill what the scripture says, **“They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.”** And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, *“Woman, here is your son.”* Then

he said to the disciple, "*Here is your mother.*" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "*I am thirsty.*" A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "*It is finished.*" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## Jesus, Remember Me

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community

Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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**John 19:31-37**—Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. **(He who saw this has**

**testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)** These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, **"None of his bones shall be broken."** And again another passage of scripture says, **"They will look on the one whom they have pierced."**

### **Hymn #482**

### **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

**Isaiah 53:4-12** Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. **But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.** By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

*Altar candles are extinguished. Sanctuary lights are momentarily put out.  
Black cloth shrouds the cross.*

**John 19: 38-42** After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**Isaiah 53: 9-12** **They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. **Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his**

**knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.** Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Adapted and select verses from **Psalm 22** **New Living Translation**

**You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.** Our ancestors trusted in you, and you rescued them. **They cried out to you and were saved. They trusted in you and were never disgraced.** You brought me safely from my mother's womb and led me to trust you at my mother's breast. **I was thrust into your arms at my birth. You have been my God from the moment I was born.** When trouble is near, do not stay far from me, for no one else can help me. **When it feels like my life is poured out like water, all my bones are out of joint, and my heart is like wax, melting within me...when my strength dries up like sunbaked clay, my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth and I am laid in the dust as if left for dead,** don't let my enemies stare at me and gloat. O Lord, do not stay far away! You are my strength; come quickly to my aid! Spare my precious life. **I will proclaim and praise your name to my brothers and sisters among your assembled people.** Praise the Lord, all you who fear him! Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob! Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy. He has not turned his back on them, but has listened to their cries for help. **[With your help, O God,] I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you, see the poor eat and be satisfied.** All who seek the Lord praise him. Let your hearts rejoice with everlasting joy. May the whole earth acknowledge the Lord and return to him. May all families of nations bow down before him. For royal power belongs to the Lord. He rules all. **Bow before him, all who are mortal, all whose lives will end as dust. Our children will also serve him. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord. His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born. They will hear about everything he has done.**

Saints of faith, depart in silence to contemplate all that God has done, trusting in Jesus' victory and redemption of humankind. Remember that "no one need ever fear life or death because Jesus Christ dies for us and with us on every Good Friday. Therefore, every night is Christmas Eve and every dawn is Easter." Go in peace, displaying gratitude and love. If you can, bury your grief and sorrow along with Jesus in the grave. Plan to celebrate everything life has to offer no later than this coming Sunday. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**