



GOOD FRIDAY

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa

Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson, Jeniffer Tillman

www.immanuelfamily.com

in person | live stream

April 18, 2025 6:30pm



Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

1. ANOINTED FOR BURIAL

READING: Matthew 26:6-26

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So, they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.”

HYMN: “**Where Charity and Love Prevail**”

#359 (vs. 1-3) ELW

PRAYER: Love is your only motive Jesus. Let love be our motive too as it was for the woman we remember and celebrate tonight who anointed you in love, for your burial. You came to us in love from heaven above to free us from the power of sin. As we witness the freedom of this woman to do such a scandalously loving act, help us to love you and others with such freedom, abandon and devotion. Enable us to love with a bigger love from this day on. **Amen**

2. ALONE

READING: Matthew 26:32-46

³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.’ ³³Peter said to him, ‘Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.’ ³⁴Jesus said to him, ‘Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.’ ³⁵Peter said to him,

‘Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.’ And so said all the disciples.

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.³⁸ Then he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.’³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.’⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?’⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.’⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.’⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.’

SONG: “Stay With Me”

[video]

PRAYER: Love is your only motive Jesus. Let love be our motive too. So often we turn our back on you and leave you alone. You are always more willing to hear our prayer than we are to stop, pray, meditate, and just be still, in relationship with you. You bear our burdens, calm our fear, and accompany us on the way. Savior, teach us so to rise in you, to true and abundant life, knowing you are the way, the truth, and the life. Nudge us again and again by your Holy Spirit and awaken us to your presence. **Amen**

3. BETRAYAL

READING: Matthew 26:47-56 *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a

sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' ⁴⁹At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?' ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

HYMN: "Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed" #463 vs. 1-3

PRAYER: Love is your only motive Jesus. Let love be our motive too. Judas was caught up in something beyond his control, swept along by the currents of evil and self-preservation. Turn us from self-reliance to community, to shared joys and shared burdens. Forgive us for our betrayals, and our strong desires to control outcomes rather than simply trusting in you. Oh, may we all one bread, one body be trough this blest sacrament of unity. **Amen**

4. ACCUSATION

READING: Matthew 26:57-68 *Jesus before the High Priest*

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, 'This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days." ' ⁶²The high priest stood up and said, 'Have you no answer? What is it that

they testify against you?’ ⁶³But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, ‘I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.’ ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, ‘You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven. ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your verdict?’ They answered, ‘He deserves death.’ ⁶⁷Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying, ‘Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?’

HYMN: “Lamb of God”

#336

PRAYER: Love is your only motive Jesus. Let love be our motive too. When we are falsely or rightly accused, we too often blame others, scapegoat the weak, and deny until we are blue in the face. Falsely accused, you went forth silently in love as the sacrifice for our guilt and sin. You became the scapegoat who set us free. Fill us with gratitude, let our cup runneth over in love, adoration, and praise for your abundant faithfulness. **Amen**

5. DENIAL

SKIT GUY VIDEO: Peter’s denial

READING: Psalm 31:9-14

Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends—those who see me on the street flee from me. I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!” They conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you Lord, I say, ‘You are my God.’”

HYMN: “Ah, Holy Jesus”

#349 vs. 1&2

PRAYER: Love is your only motive Jesus. Let love be our motive too. We trust more in the terror that surrounds us, in the whispering voices that come from within and without seeking to tear us down than we trust in you and in your voice of blessing, goodness, abundance, mercy, loving kindness, and blessed assurance. Forgive our denials when we disparage you, ourselves, others, and your beloved creation. Help us to hear your voice, to follow you our Good Shepherd who is willing to lay down your life for your sheep. **Amen**

6. SUFFERING

READING: Isaiah 53:1-5

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 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. 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. Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 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.

HYMN: **“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

#351 vs. 1-3

PRAYER: Love is your only motive Jesus. Let love be our motive too. The crown of thorns was the crown given you by all complicit in your death. Suffering was all around you, yet you trusted in the faithfulness of love. How Lord? Help us to trust more in love than in hatred; more in love than in revenge; more in love than in death, for love never ends and you have shown us the never ending love of God poured out upon you, sustaining you through this night of suffering, darkness, and death. Help us always hold on to love and to let go of all else. **Amen**

7. CRUCIFIXION

HYMN: **“Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

#347

READING: Matthew 27:31-43

After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the jews. Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

Congregation: Quietly gather in a circle around the sanctuary for communion together. No words spoken – bread and wine distributed – hold your bread and wine until all have received and then eat and drink together. (Remain standing for last segment.)

8. DEATH

HYMN: “**Were You There**”

#353

READING: Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.

VIDEO: *The Last Painting*

L: Let us go in peace.

Depart in silence

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Worship Participants:

Piano/Organ: Audrey Olmstead

Song Leaders: Steve Olmstead, Scott Bertelsen

Sound/Video: Geno Lopes/Prosper

Usher: Tina Berg

Communion set up: Ruth Melby

EASTER SCHEDULE:

7:30am SUNRISE EASTER WORSHIP, communion

8-9am EASTER BREAKFAST, Fellowship Hall
HS Youth hosting (freewill)

8-9am EASTER EGG HUNT FOR KIDS

9:15am EASTER WORSHIP, communion, choirs

We won't be passing the offering plate tonight, but your gifts may be left in the offering plate on the guest cart in the narthex. Thank you for your gifts.