



No Greater  
Love

**March 29, 2024**  
**Good Friday**  
**7:00 PM Worship**

First Lutheran Church  
709 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. – P.O. Box 218  
Washburn, North Dakota 58577  
[www.flcwashburn.com](http://www.flcwashburn.com)  
701-462-3775

## AS WE GATHER

*(Welcome to this Good Friday Service. Tonight we celebrate the Tenebrae Service: The word “Tenebrae” is from Latin meaning darkness. Darkness reminds us of the terrible reality of our sin, which caused our Savior to die for us. This is a service of confession, prayer, and acknowledgment of God’s great work of forgiveness, accomplished on a hill called Calvary.)*

## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### OPENING PRAYER:

Dearest Lord, on this night of darkness prepare our hearts for Your light. Let us see the gravity of our sin, but also let us see our Savior. May we be moved to sorrow for our many offenses against you, and from our sorrow, may we see our Savior’s forgiving love. Let the light of Your love shine in the darkness that we may go away from this night with solemn appreciation of Christ’s great sacrifice, and we might also be moved to live willingly and sacrificially for Him. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

### INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES:

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Jesus demonstrates the Father’s love to us.

**C: He loved us from eternity and will love us into eternity.**

P: He knew that He was born into this world to die;

**C: And He willingly laid down His life for the sheep He loved.**

P: As He hung upon the cross He was forsaken.

**C: Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God.**

P: All of our sins were charged to Jesus,

**C: And for them He willingly suffered and died.**

P: In exchange, Christ's holiness was credited to us;  
**C: And for that we give Him our love, for He has put  
away our sins and has opened up heaven for us.**

## HYMN MEDLEY – SONGS OF THE CROSS

### **“The Old Rugged Cross” George Bennard**

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 and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

**Chorus:**  
**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
'Til my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

In the 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.

### **Repeat Chorus**

### **“Beneath The Cross Of Jesus”**

Beneath the cross of Jesus we come to take our stand  
The shadow of a mighty Rock within our weary land;  
A home within this wilderness, our rest upon the way,  
From burning of the noon-tide heat and the burdens of our  
day.

Upon the cross of Jesus we set our eyes to see  
The very dying form of Him who suffered there for me;  
And from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

## **“The Wonderful Cross”**

**Isaac Watts, Chris Tomlin, J. D. Walt, Jesse Reeves**

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

### **Chorus:**

**O the wonderful cross! O the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross! O the wonderful cross!  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your  
name.**

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

### **Repeat Chorus**

### **CONFESSION OF SINS:**

**All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.**

**P:** I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most.

**C:** **My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered.**

**P:** I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed.

**C: There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I failed to help.**

P: My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.

**All: We are heartily sorry for these and for our many other offenses. For the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS:**

P: Jesus endured the cruelty of this world and a cross that we might know the kindness of God. He bore the lashes, endured harsh punishment that we might be gently treated. Because of Him, God, in love, and mercy, has forgiven our sin. In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven this day. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Isaiah 53:1-6**

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. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten 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 upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9**

**Read By All**

**<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

**<sup>7</sup> During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup> and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.**

**SERMON HYMN – (Verses 1-2) .....LBW #98  
“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”**

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?

Was it for sins that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

**SERMON ..... Pastor Paul Krueger  
“God Gets Down to Business” - John 19:30**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE – (Verses 3-5) .....LBW #98**  
**“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”**

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut its glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died For his own creatures’  
sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While his dear cross  
appears, Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my  
eyes to tears.

But tears of grief cannot repay The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away: It’s all that I can do.

CHOIR ..... “Mary Knew”

**RESPONSIVE PRAYERS:**

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, this day marks the  
anniversary of Your greatest gift to the world.

**C: Your love for the human race is beyond our  
understanding.**

P: We praise You for that love, which caused You to give up  
Your only begotten Son unto death for sinful humanity.

**C: Cleansed of our sin and clothed in His  
righteousness, we can now stand in Your presence.**

P: Because You spoke a word of forgiveness, asking Your  
Father to forgive those who put You on the cross, we  
know that our sins are forgiven.

**C: Because You spoke a word of promise, assuring the  
criminal who believed in You everlasting life,**

P: We have the assurance that, in spite of our sins, we too  
may have eternal life.

**C: Because as You were dying, You spoke a word of  
tender care for Your mother,**

P: We can be confident that Your tender care will also be  
with us to the end of our earthly lives.

**C: Because having been forsaken by Your Father, You  
spoke a word of anguish,**

P: We know that we will never be forsaken.

**C: Because You thirsted for us,**

P: We now have the water of everlasting life.  
**C: Because You spoke a word of accomplishment, saying that the work of salvation was finished,**  
P: We need never be doubtful of our salvation.  
**C: Through Your yielding up Your spirit to death,**  
P: We have life.  
**C: O Holy Spirit, abide in our hearts.**  
P: Help us to believe that Christ died in our place.  
**C: Grant us a faith that bears testimony to our friends and community that this salvation is also available to them.**  
P: So fill us with Your Holy Spirit that our lives will be a constant witness to our faith in the crucified Christ.  
**C: This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

#### THE 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.

**They Took Him Down** ..... Randy Hall, Reader  
(By Jimmy Owens) ..... LeAnn Richard, Music

*The over-head lights are turned down as the dramatic portrayal of Jesus death is read.*

*The congregation is invited to spend a short moment in silent meditation and prayer.*

*Then exit without conversation to await the joyous news that:*

**"HE IS NO LONGER DEAD. HE HAS RISEN!"**

**"Even darkness is as light to Thee  
for the sake of our Crucified Savior"**

**Amen.**



**Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!**

INTERIM PASTOR ..... Pastor Paul Krueger  
READER ..... Peggy Moran  
ORGANIST ..... LeAnn Richard  
USHERS/GREETERS ..... Luke & Emily Retterath Family  
VIRTUAL SERVICE ..... DJ Winter  
ALTAR GUILD ..... Maybell Job & Claudette Ness  
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS ..... Emily Retterath  
Suzy Jacobson & Beth Knutson

**Our Mission**

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

**Welcome to all who have come to worship.**

From the cross, Jesus gave Mary and John into each other's care. He gives us, too, into each other's care. Welcome to Good Friday worship.

**Visitors**

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

**Nursery**

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

**Hearing Assist**

First Lutheran has hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this or want to try it, please see the ushers in the narthex.

## **EASTER SCHEDULE**

### **Easter Sunday – March 31**

Easter Sunrise Worship w/Holy Communion - 7:00 AM

Easter Breakfast - 7:45 AM - 9:15 AM

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and fruit  
served by FLY. Freewill donation.

Easter Celebration Worship w/Holy Communion - 9:30 AM

### **First Communion Class**

First Communion Class has been rescheduled for Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. They will take their First Communion on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Paul.

### **Thrivent Choice Members**

Thrivent Choice Members, a reminder if you already haven't, March 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day to direct your remaining 2023 Choice Dollars. First Lutheran received \$1,031.00 in Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funding in 2023. Thank you to all that donated your choice dollars to First Lutheran.

### **Camp of the Cross Camp Scholarships**

THANKS to the FLC Church Council, FLCW, Evangelism Committee and an anonymous party, all registration fees will be covered for the FLC campers to Camp of the Cross Ministries this summer. There is an early bird discount for registering with CCM by **April 1, 2024**. Please let Peggy Moran know by **May 19, 2024**, if you have any campers registered so funds can be sent to the camp before camp season begins.

## **Confirmation Café Servers Needed**

We are looking for a couple people each of the following Wednesdays to volunteer to make and serve a meal to our confirmation students and helpers. Serving begins between 5:15 pm and 5:30 pm and ends at 6:15 pm. You decide the meal you want to serve. April 17 & 24. Contact Claudette Ness with questions or if you are willing to make and serve a meal. People that have already served enjoy seeing the kids and how polite they are. Thank you to all that have stepped up and helped out so far.

## **Connections**

The March/April issue of *Connections* is in the magazine rack in the narthex. Take a copy today to read updates on the LCMC and NALC plus other interesting articles.

## **Our Daily Bread and Portals of Prayer**

The March/April/May issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the April - June 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

# *Listening for the Promise*

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Good Friday - March 29, 2024

*“And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.”*

*- Hebrews 4:9 -*

Holy week is a good time to ask the deep questions of our faith. Who is Jesus? What did He do? What does this mean for my life? These questions might not offer any new insights, but they help us to focus on Jesus Christ at a time when the world is watching. It helps us witness to this truth of Christian faith: we can't get to the Resurrection without the Crucifixion. Perhaps this seems obvious, but most people would rather believe in the triumph of Christ and ignore the suffering. Even many Christians would rather jump from Palm Sunday to Easter.

It is easy to believe in the Resurrection. God is all-powerful; God gives life and it is no surprise that He can raise someone from the dead. We don't expect any less from the Lord God Almighty. The proclamation of Easter brings joy and peace. Even those who do not believe in Jesus enjoy the celebration of Easter and its focus on life, renewal, and joy.

It is a lot harder to believe in Good Friday. God is all-powerful, why would His Son, our Lord Jesus, have to suffer such incredible pain and humiliation? Why did He have to die? How can any of this be good? Even if we can give the right theological answers to the questions of Good Friday, we still wonder in our hearts why it had to be this way. The world rejects the cross as foolishness; it is not surprising because even believers have a hard time understanding it.

We cannot reject the events of Good Friday, however. The crowds came looking for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane with Judas as their guide. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss; the soldiers arrested Him. Jesus was tried, sent back and forth between the Romans and Jews; no one wanted to be responsible for a death they were convinced was necessary. He was humiliated and beaten. The people chose to set a murderous thief free rather than the King of Creation. His disciples fled, Peter denied Him. It might seem like God lost control, but it was there that we see truly see His power. Jesus' way of being in the world caused him to be there; he was too good, too perfect for a society of sinners. We destroyed the Son of God on that horrible day. But that's not the end of the story. . .