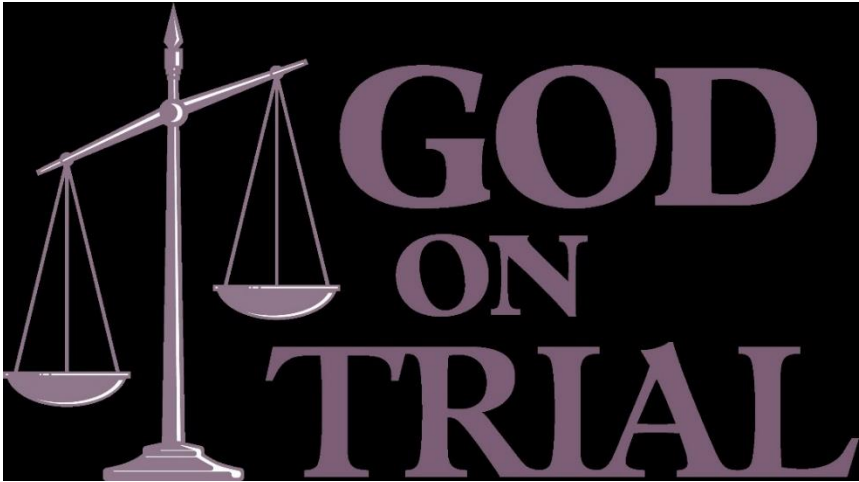


*Welcome to our Good Friday
Worship Service
St. John's Lutheran Church
Neillsville, WI
March 29, 2024*



"Welcome Visitors & Members!" To those who are visiting us, we extend our sincere welcome; to our friends who know us we renew our welcome; to those who seek a church home we invite you to be part of our family and enjoy fellowship with our Savior.

To assist you in worship, please be aware that personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers.

Order of Worship

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

P: Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family of believers 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, forever and ever.

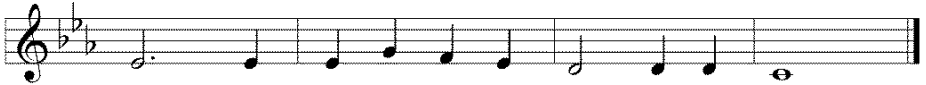
C: Amen.

Psalm 22

Refrain



Be - hold the Lamb, be - hold the Lamb of



God, who takes a - way the sin of the world.

Psalm Tone



My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me?

I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Refrain

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

A band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Call to Worship

P: Seek the Lord while he may be found;

C: Call on him while he is near.

P: Let the wicked forsake his way

C: And the evil man his thoughts.

P: Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him

C: And to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Confessions and Absolution

P: Who may appear in your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on you for help?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart; he shall receive blessings from the Lord.

P: Precious Savior, the darkness of your hours on the cross surrounds us. We sense what you experienced as you faced the dreadful assaults of Satan as our substitute. We are awed by the commitment to your Father, and to us, that drove you on to the cross to die. Confident that in you we will find help in our time of need, we come to make confession of our sins.

C: O most holy and righteous Savior and Lord, I am a sinner whose thoughts, words, and actions testify to the evil that lurks within. Though I try to drown my old Adam with his evil deeds and desires by daily contrition and repentance, yet he continues to overcome me. Hear my cry for mercy. Take from me the sin that I have inherited and the sins that I have committed, for the sake of your holy, precious blood and your innocent suffering and death.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Responsive Prayer

P: Father, when your Son hung on the cross, he cried out to you in agony and grief. You gave him the strength to endure so that death might be destroyed and life restored.

C: **Have mercy on us all our days and preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 52:13–53:12

¹³Look, my servant will succeed.

He will rise. He will be lifted up. He will be highly exalted.

¹⁴Just as many were appalled at him —

his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like a man, and his form was disfigured more than any other person—

¹⁵so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him, because they will see something they had never been told before, and they will understand something they had never heard before.

Who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²He grew up before him like a tender shoot and like a root from dry ground.

He had no attractiveness and no majesty.

When we saw him, nothing about his appearance made us desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by men,

a man who knew grief,

who was well acquainted with suffering.

Like someone whom people cannot bear to look at,

he was despised,

and we thought nothing of him.

⁴Surely he was taking up our weaknesses,

and he was carrying our sufferings.

We thought it was because of God

that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted,

⁵but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced.

He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved.

The punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all have gone astray like sheep.

Each of us has turned to his own way,

but the LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

*⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth.*

*Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers,
he did not open his mouth.*

*⁸He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice,
and of his generation, who even cared?*

So, he was cut off from the land of the living.

He was struck because of the rebellion of my people.

*⁹They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked,
but he was given a grave with the rich in his death,
because he had done no violence,
and no deceit was in his mouth.*

*¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him
and to allow him to suffer.*

Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring.

He will prolong his days,

and the LORD's gracious plan will succeed in his hand.

¹¹After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life.

He will provide satisfaction.

*Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many,
for he himself carried their guilt.*

*¹²Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great,
and with the strong he will share plunder,*

because he poured out his life to death,

and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners.

He himself carried the sin of many,

and he intercedes for the rebels.

New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 7:26-28

*²⁶This is certainly the kind of high priest we needed: one who is holy,
innocent, pure, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.*

*²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices on a
daily basis, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. In
fact, he sacrificed for sins once and for all when he offered himself. ²⁸For
the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses. But the
word of the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has
been brought to his goal forever.*

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 53:4

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

Gospel Lesson: John 19:17-30

¹⁷Carrying his own cross, he went out to what is called the Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him with two others, one on each side, and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate also had a notice written and fastened on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews."

²⁰Many of the Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that 'this man said, "I am the King of the Jews.'""

²²Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took his tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it.

Instead, let's cast lots to see who gets it." This was so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

They divided my garments among them

and cast lots for my clothing.

So the soldiers did these things.

²⁵Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst."

²⁹A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!" Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

Congregational Response: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

431 O Perfect Life of Love CW 21



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all is fin - ished now,
2 No work is left un - done of all the Fa - ther willed;
3 No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;
4 And on his thorn-crowned head and on his sin - less soul



all that he left his throne a - bove to do for us be - low.
his toil, his sor - rows, one by one, the Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
all forms of hu - man grief and care have pierced that ten - der heart.
our sins in all their guilt were laid that he might make us whole.

5 In perfect love he dies;
for me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
you died to make me free!

6 In ev'ry time of need,
before the judgment throne,
your works, O Lamb of God,
I'll plead,
your merits, not my own.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, abr., alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Matthew 27:38-54

Sermon Theme: God on Trial-Evidence

³⁸At the same time two criminals were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, ⁴²"He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he's the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him.

⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

47When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "This fellow is calling for Elijah."

48Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. 49The rest said, "Leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

50After Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

51Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. 52Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. 53Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus' resurrection and appeared to many people. 54When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, "Truly this was the Son of God."



Offering-*The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry, but please use this QR code to fill out a short form giving us a digital record of your attendance. Visitors can also sign our guest register in the entryway by the drinking fountain.*

Offering Music: *During the offering you may want to follow along in the blue hymnal as our organist plays through a new hymn, 395.*

Responsive Prayer

P: Heavenly Father, you are a just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how much our sins offend you. We forget that the wages of sin truly is death. We forget that there actually is a hell. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you.

C: Teach us to look to you as the only one who can make us just and right.

P: Today we are reminded not only of your justice but also of your love. You did not spare your own Son but gave him as a ransom for each one of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of this great love. Give us the peace that the forgiveness of sins brings.

C: When we feel our guilt, point us to the cross, where our guilt was washed away in Jesus' blood.

P: Lord Jesus, we thank you for paying the debt that we could not pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in paradise.

C: For being our perfect substitute, we thank you, Lord Jesus.

P: Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished sacrifice for sin and commended your spirit into the hands of your Father. Teach us to cast the cares of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his love.

C: Give us the courage to face death, knowing that it is the gate to our home in paradise.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we offer our personal thanks for the forgiveness that you have given us and for the home that you have won for us.

Silent prayer.

P: The cross was once an instrument of death. It is now a sign of life.

C: Dear Savior, we humbly kneel at the cross in awe of your power and of your love. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

(please be seated)

427 O Darkest Woe CW 21



1 O dark - est woe! O tears, forth flow! Has
 2 O sor - row dread! Our God is dead, up -
 3 O child of woe: Who struck the blow that
 4 All stained with blood the Lamb of God, the



earth so sad a won - der? God the Fa - ther's
 on the cross ex - tend - ed. There his love en -
 killed our gra - cious Mas - ter? "It was I," your
 Bride - groom, lies be - fore you, pour - ing out his



on - ly Son now is bur - ied yon - der.
 liv - ened us as his life was end - ed.
 con - science cries, "I have wrought dis - as - ter!"
 life that he may to life re - store you.

- 5 O Virgin's Son,
 what you have won
 is far beyond all telling:
 how our God, detested, died,
 hell and devil felling.
- 6 O Jesus blest,
 my help and rest,
 regard my prayerful weeping:
 usher me through death and grave
 safe into your keeping.

Text (st. 1): Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635; (sts. 1, 4, 6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 2–6): Johann Rist, 1607–1667, abr.; (sts. 2–3, 5): tr. Joseph Herl, b. 1959, alt.

Tune: Himmlische Harmony, Mainz, 1628

Text (sts. 2–3, 5): © Joseph Herl. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

Text (sts. 1, 4, 6) and tune: Public domain

(please stand)

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

(congregation may be seated)

Grades K-8 sing "The Burial"-)

- 1. Gently, we took His body down, wrapped the spice and linen 'round, our Lord.
Tenderly took the crown of thorn, from the head that took the scorn; Jesus, our Lord.**
- 2. Mary, and Mary Magdalene, saw the final bitter scene, of our Lord.
Carefully watched all that was done, to the Savior and the Son; Jesus, our Lord.**
- 3. Love made Him carry all our sin, and with love we carried Him, our Lord.
In the tomb He laid at rest, with our tears upon His breast; Jesus, our Lord.**
- 4. There was no more we could do, there was no more we could say. So we covered His dear face, rolled the heavy stone in place. Then we walked away.**

Tolling of the Bell *(please stand when the children's song is finished and remain standing)*

You will not be ushered out today, and pastor will not be greeting anyone. When the tolling of the bell is finished, you may dismiss yourselves.

