



On Good Friday, we gather in solemn contemplation and celebration of God's way of redeeming the whole world—by the suffering and death of Jesus Christ on a cross. It is a solemn time of reflection, as well as the adoration of Christ, our Passover lamb.

We enter into worship with prayer. We listen to the last words of Christ as recorded in the Gospels. The form of the service is known as Tenebrae, or "shadows." Candles are extinguished and the sanctuary is darkened as these words of Jesus are remembered. In response we sing and pray. In the end, only the Christ candle remains, symbolizing the promise of the resurrection. Concluding with the Lord's Prayer, we leave the service in quietness and reflection.

(Please note that no offering will be collected during the service.
A basket is located near the entrance for your contributions.)

WELCOME!

- ✧ Welcome! We are glad that you have come to First Immanuel this evening. We welcome people of every race, ethnic background, social status, physical limitation, sexual orientation and gender identity. We are a Reconciling In Christ congregation. Together, in our diversity, we seek to embrace the love God offers us in Jesus Christ.

MASKS OPTIONAL

- ✧ Our worship services and all activities are mask-optional. Those who wish to wear a mask are welcome to do so, since this is a very effective way to prevent infection. The church continues to provide masks, run air purifiers, and make hand sanitizer available, and our caring FILC physicians continue to encourage vaccination for everyone.

We invite you to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and join in worship on Sunday at 11 a.m.
A simple Easter Breakfast will be served from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 10:30 a.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

29 March 2024

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Tonight we choose to remember things we might want to forget.

People: The suffering and death of Jesus...in solidarity with the suffering and death of many, in the face of our own suffering and death

Pastor: We remember that at the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

People: And we remember that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Loving Jesus, you carried the trauma, the brokenness and the sin of the world in your own body on the tree of the cross, so that we and all of creation might be restored. Reconnect us to this gift. Bring us to rest in this Mystery of Love. Amen

WORD

MEDITATION

Pastor Christine Core

THE LESSON

Isaiah 53:4-6

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lamb of God Most Holy”

F.M. Christiansen, arr.

* Please stand as you are able.

THE LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

THE FIRST WORD—Luke 23:34

Pastor: When they came to the place that is called the Skull, they crucified Jesus with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”**

HYMN

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

ELW 349 (*red book*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Ah, holy Jesus,
how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee
have in hate pretended?
By foes derided,
by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted. | thy death of anguish,
and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation. |
| 4. For me, kind Jesus,
was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow,
and life’s oblation; | 5. Therefore, kind Jesus,
since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee,
and will ever pray thee;
think on thy pity
and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving. |

© Public domain.

PRAYER

Pastor: O God of endless love and infinite mercy,

People: we pray for all those who are doing evil in the world, and to the world. We pray for those who exploit and oppress people and animals. We pray for those who abuse power. We pray for those who violate the earth. We pray for the Church when it is tempted to avoid healthy boundaries or compromise the Gospel of grace. We pray for ourselves when we fail to listen or let go of cherished outcomes. Forgive us, for we often don’t know what we are doing.

Pastor: God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Tolling of the bell, extinguishing the candle, silence...

THE SECOND WORD—Luke 23:43

Pastor: One of the criminals said to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus said, **“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”**

HYMN

“Jesus, Remember Me”

ELW 616 (*red book*)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

© 1981 *Les Presses de Taizé*, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission (lic. 6461).

PRAYER

Pastor: Merciful God,

People: we give you thanks and praise that there is such a wideness in your mercy and grace enough for everyone and everything. Nothing can separate us from your love. We pray for all who don’t know or believe that. We pray for this “paradise” called earth. We pray for those who long for new life and a new path, but feel it is too late. Speak to them as you spoke to the criminal on the cross—that you are the one nearest to them in their hour of greatest need, and they will be with you in paradise. We all pray, “Jesus, remember me.”

Pastor: God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Tolling of the bell, extinguishing the candle, silence...

THE THIRD WORD—John 19:26-27

Pastor: When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, 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.

HYMN

“Bind Us Together”

Refrain:

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with
cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together, Lord;
bind us together in love.**

2. You are the fam’ly of God.
You are the promise divine.
You are God’s chosen desire,
you are the glorious new wine.

Refrain

© 1977 Thankyou Music, admin. Integrity’s Hosanna! Music.
Used by permission (CCLI lic. 1767054).

PRAYER

Pastor: God of life, we pray for families...

People: not as we may define them—but as you do: Make this congregation and your church throughout the world one family in Christ. Help us to listen to the voice of Christ, who wants us to be mothers and sons, fathers and daughters, siblings...to all those in need; and not to exclude anyone, but to cherish everyone and everything You have made—that we can even call the animals and sun and moon and rocks and trees and skies and seas, “brother” and “sister.” Heal us when families and congregations, friendships and relationships, are dysfunctional or destructive. We thank you for the people who have been and are family to us. We pray for those who, like Mary, mourn for their loved ones.

Pastor: God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Tolling of the bell, extinguishing the candle, silence...

THE FOURTH WORD—Mark 15:34 & Matthew 27:46

Pastor: Darkness came over the whole land and Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “**My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?**”

HYMN **“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”** **ELW 803** (*red book*)

1. 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.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. 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?

© Public domain.

PRAYER

Pastor: Loving God, we pray for the forsaken of the world:

People: for those in prison; for unwanted children and for the elderly and disabled; for the poor and those looking for work; for all refugees and for any who are without hope; for the earth when we have forsaken creation; for ourselves, when we feel forsaken. Enable us and all people to see beneath and beyond the disappointment and questions, the sorrow and despair, the everlasting arms of your healing love. Sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Pastor: God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Tolling of the bell, extinguishing the candle, silence...

THE FIFTH WORD—John 19:28

Pastor: When Jesus knew the end was near, he cried out, “**I thirst.**”

HYMN

“**As the Deer Runs to the River**”

ELW 331 (*red book*)

TUNE: ELW 490 (*red book*)

1. As the deer runs to the river,
parched and weary from the chase,
we have come from hurt and hurry,
thirsting for your healing grace.

4. Christ, we come from desert places,
deepest thirst unsatisfied.
Lead us to the waters flowing
from the cross on which you died.

Refrain:

**Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!**

Refrain

© 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.
Used by permission (lic. 6461).

PRAYER

Pastor: O God, you are the well of living water that will never run dry.

People: **We pray to you for all those who suffer physically. Pour forth your Spirit to comfort and refresh them and bring your healing. We pray for the ways the earth itself thirsts because of pollution and waste. There are many ways to “thirst,” O God: we pray for those who thirst for love; we pray for those who struggle with addictions. We also pray for those who hunger and thirst after justice and right-relationships—that, in their response to your calling and according to your promise, they might be satisfied.**

Pastor: God, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Tolling of the bell, extinguishing the candle, silence...

THE SIXTH WORD—John 19:30

Pastor: And then Jesus said, **“It is finished.”**

HYMN

“Were You There”

ELW 353 (*red book*)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Were you there when they
crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they
crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they
crucified my Lord? | 2. Were you there when
they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when
they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when
they nailed him to the tree? |
|--|---|

© Public domain.

PRAYER

Pastor: God, we thank you that as Jesus' life and work on earth were finished,

People: so our search for forgiveness and answers is finished. Help us to not withhold our hearts, but let go and live in your forgiveness and love, to be at peace and rest in it, that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. Help us to discern the work you have for each of us to do and to finish it.

Pastor: God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Tolling of the bell, extinguishing the candle, silence...

THE SEVENTH WORD—Luke 23:46

Pastor: Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, **“Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.”** Having said this, he breathed his last.

HYMN

“Were You There”

ELW 353 (*red book*)

4. Were you there when
the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when
the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when
when the sun refused to shine?

5. Were you there when they
laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they
laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they
laid him in the tomb?

© Public domain.

Tolling of the bell, extinguishing the candle, silence...

PRAYER AT THE CROSS

Pastor: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

People: O, come, let us worship Christ Crucified...the Mystery of God's Love!

HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

ELW 666 (*red book*)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul?
3. To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb
I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb | who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme,
I will sing.
4. And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity
I'll sing on. |
|--|---|

© Public domain.

Pastor: We adore you, O Christ, for revealing the depth of God's love!

People: By your cross and passion you have redeemed us and all creation.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

READ

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

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace...or stay to pray as long as you like.

Please leave the sanctuary in silence.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human
semblance,

and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so 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.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been
revealed?

²For 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.

³He 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.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But 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.

⁶All 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸By 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.

⁹They 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.

¹⁰Yet 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.

¹¹Out 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.

¹²Therefore 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.

Psalm 22**SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:16-25**

“This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no
more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer
any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to
enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new
and living way that he opened for us through the cur-
tain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a
great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with
a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts
sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies
washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confes-
sion of our hope without wavering, for he who has prom-
ised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one
another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet
together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one an-
other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 [not printed]

GOSPEL: John 18:1—19:42 [not printed]

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org. Tracks 1 and 2

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

ELCA-R