

God's Gift *of* Forgiveness

Divine Forgetfulness

Psalm 130

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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April 3, 2026

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Rev. Jonathan F. Meyer

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6:30 PM

Good Friday Worship

We welcome you to our worship service this evening.

St. Paul's has a service every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM.

Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM.

We request that members and visitors fill out an attendance card.

Please pass the card down to the center aisle after the offering.

You are welcome in this house.

The Mission at *St. Paul's Lutheran Church* is:

Preach and Teach to ALL, Comfort and Support those in need!

ACOLYTE: Jonathan Becker

LIVESTREAM: Paul Fisher

SOUND: Gerald Nolte

SCRIPTURE READER: Layton Heitfeld

ELDER OF THE DAY: Gene Breitenkamp

USHERS: Gene Breitenkamp, Jere Courter, Chris Burdick, Chris Bauer

Notes for this service:

Absolution – Our theme this year is “God’s Gift of Forgiveness.” Christ has given to His Church the commandment to forgive the sins of the penitent sinner. Martin Luther writes in his Small Catechism concerning absolution, “When the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular...when they absolve [forgive] those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us Himself,” (5th Chief Part).

Tonight’s service is the second night of the Holy Tridium. Good Friday is the night when Jesus is tried, crucified, and dies. Tomorrow, Holy Saturday, is the day when Jesus’ body lays at Sabbath rest in the grave, fulfilling the Law of the Sabbath Day’s rest.

The Offering will be collected at the door as you leave.

Please maintain reverent silence while in the church building this evening.

Silence your cell phone at this time.

Hymn 456 – Were You There



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you
4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...
there when God raised Him from the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

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Opening Versicles

P O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **make haste to help me, O Lord. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

Psalm – Psalm 130:1–8

P Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

C **O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

P If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

P I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

C **my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning; yes, more than watchmen for the morning.**

P O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

C **And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Hymn 440 – Jesus, I Will Ponder Now v 1 & 2



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.

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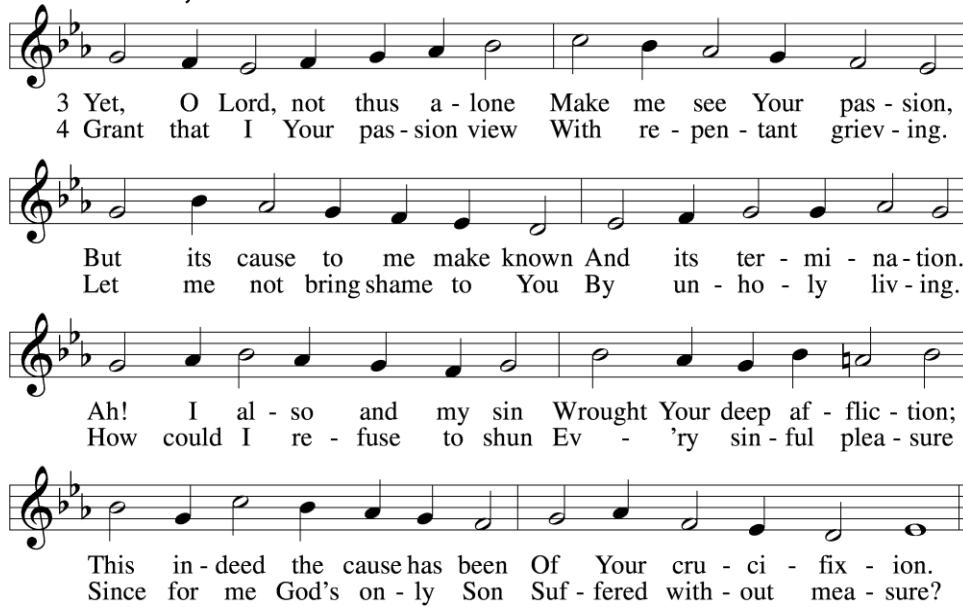
P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

Passion Reading: John 19:1–16

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Hymn 440 - Jesus, I Will Ponder Now v. 3 & 4



3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a-lone Make me see Your pas-sion,
4 Grant that I Your pas-sion view With re-pen-tant griev-ing.

But its cause to me make known And its ter-mi-na-tion.
Let me not bring shame to You By un-ho-ly liv-ing.

Ah! I al-so and my sin Wrought Your deep af-flic-tion;
How could I re-fuse to shun Ev-'ry sin-ful plea-sure

This in-deed the cause has been Of Your cru-ci-fix-ion.
Since for me God's on-ly Son Suf-fered with-out mea-sure?

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpinus, c. 1570–1615 Text and tune: Public domain

Passion Reading: John 19:16–42

¹⁶... So they [the soldiers] took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So

he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Hymn 440 – Jesus, I Will Ponder Now v. 5 & 6



5 If my sins give me a-larm And my con-science grieve me,
6 Gra-cious-ly my faith re-new; Help me bear my cross-es,



Let Your cross my fear dis-arm; Peace of con-science give me.
Learn-ing hum-ble-ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss-es.



Help me see for-give-ness won By Your ho-ly pas-sion.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav-ior,



If for me He slays His Son, God must have com-pas-sion!
That I may in heav'n a-bove Sing Your praise for-ev-er.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpinus, c. 1570–1615 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: Divine Forgetfulness – Psalm 130

The Litany

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,
C **hear us.**

P God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**

P God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**

P Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**

P From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and
passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of
judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**

P To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your
Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them
in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have
erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany
Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the
weakhearted and the distressed:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our president, governor, county judge and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C **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. Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Please leave in silence.

You may give your offering as you leave.

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Join us Easter morning, 9am, for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection.