

Good Friday 2026

The Way of the Cross

Zion Lutheran Church + Wausau, Wisconsin

Tre Ore Service (12–3 p.m.)



12:00 NOON

Please stand and face the back as the bell tolls 12 times.

The following is spoken three times before the image of Christ crucified:

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

C: **Oh, come, let us adore him.**

After the image of Christ crucified is placed in its stand, please be seated.

IMPROPERIA (“Reproaches”)

L: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;
God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

Response: **Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the cross an off’ring,
Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in your suff’ring!
You died our guilt to banish That none in sin need perish!
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus!**

L: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;
God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord,
have mercy.



12:20 PM: The First Station

"JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH."

HYMN

"O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" (*stanzas 1 – 5*) ... LSB #439

P: God spared not his only Son.

C: **But delivered him up for us all.**

LESSON Mark 15:1-5, 15

RESPONSE

C: **Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the cross an off'ring,
Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in your suff'ring!
You died our guilt to banish That none in sin need perish!
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus!**

MEDITATION Pr. Steven Gjerde

RESPONSE *Psalm 140:1-7, 12-13*

... Jacob Drengler (b. 1991)

Choir:



L: Deliver me, O LORD, from | evil men;*
preserve me from | violent men,

C: **who plan evil things | in their heart*
and stir up wars con- | tinually.**

L: They make their tongue sharp as a | serpent's,*
and under their lips is the ven- | om of asps.

Congregation:



**C: Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;
preserve me from | violent men,*
who have planned to trip | up my feet.**

**L: The arrogant have hidden a trap for me,
and with cords they have | spread a net;*,
beside the way they have set | snares for me.**

Congregation:



**C: I say to the LORD, You | are my God;*,
give ear to the voice of my pleas for mercy, | O LORD!**

**L: O LORD, my Lord, the strength of my sal- | vation,*
you have covered my head in the day of | battle.**

**C: I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the af- | flicted,*
and will execute justice for the | needy.**

**L: Surely the righteous shall give thanks | to your name;*,
the upright shall dwell in your | presence.**

Congregation:



Please kneel.

PRAYER

P: Almighty God,

C: we beg you, in your great love, to look on us, your family, for which our Lord Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of the wicked, and to suffer death on the cross; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING

An organ interlude is played.



12:40 PM: The Second Station

"JESUS RECEIVES HIS BITTER CROSS"

HYMN "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

... LSB #451

P: The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

C: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

LESSON Matthew 27:27-31; John 19:16b-17

RESPONSE

C: Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the cross an off'ring,
Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in your suff'ring!
You died our guilt to banish That none in sin need perish!
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus!

MEDITATION Pr. Christopher Johnson

RESPONSE *Psalm 31:1-5, 9-16, antiphon: Psalm 130:1*

Choir:



L: In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be | put to shame;*
in your righteousness de- | liver me!

C: **Incline your ear to me;**
rescue me | speedily!*
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to | save me!

L: For you are my rock and my | fortress;*
and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me;

C: **you take me out of the net they have hidden | for me,***
for you are my | refuge.

L: Into your hand I commit my | spirit;*
you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.

Congregation:



C: **Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress;***
my eye is wasted from grief;
my soul and my body | also.

L: For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with | sighing;*
my strength fails because of my iniquity,
and my bones | waste away.

**C: Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,
especially to my neighbors,
and an object of dread to my ac- | quaintances;*
those who see me in the street | flee from me.**

L: I have been forgotten like one | who is dead;*
I have become like a broken | vessel.

**C: For I hear the whispering of many –
terror on | every side! – *
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to | take my life.**

L: But I trust in you, | O LORD;*
I say, “You | are my God.”

**C: My times are | in your hand;*
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my perse- | cutors!**

L: Make your face shine on your | servant;*
save me in your | steadfast love!

Congregation:



Please kneel.

PRAYER

P: Almighty and everlasting God, who willed that your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross:

C: **Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may obtain remission of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

BLESSING

An organ interlude is played.



*For I hear the whispering of many – terror on every side! –
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.*



1:00 PM: The Third Station

“SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS”

HYMN “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”



1 “Take up your cross,” the Sav - ior said,
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,



“if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
nor think till death to lay it down;



for - sake the past, and come this day,
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
for you the Lord en - dured the cross
for those who hum - bly bear the cross



and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.”
sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
to save your soul from death and hell.
one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

P: Whoever does not carry his cross and come after me,
C: **cannot be my disciple.**

LESSON Mark 15:21

RESPONSE

C: Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the cross an off'ring,
Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in your suff'ring!
You died our guilt to banish That none in sin need perish!
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus!

MEDITATION Pr. Steven Gjerde

RESPONSE *Psalm 102:1-2, 12; Isaiah 53:4a, 5a, 6a, c*

Choir:



L: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our | sorrows.*
He was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our in- | iquities.

C: All we like sheep have | gone astray;*
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity | of us all.

Congregation:

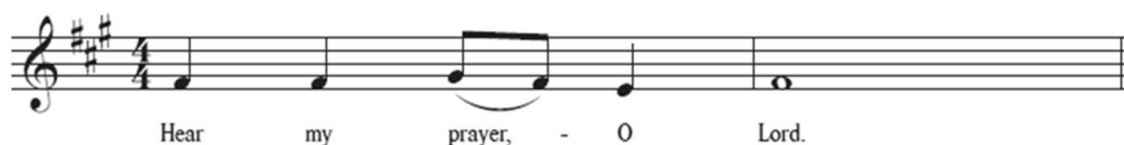


L: Hear my prayer, | O LORD;*
let my cry | come to you!

C: Do not hide your face from me in the day of | my distress!*
Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day | when I call!

L: But you, O LORD, are enthroned for- | ever;*
you are remembered throughout all gener- | ations.

Congregation:



C: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our | sorrows.*
He was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our in- | iquities.

L: All we like sheep have | gone astray;*
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity | of us all.

Congregation:



Please kneel.

PRAYER

P: Merciful God, who has not spared your only Son, but delivered him up for us all, that he might bear our sins upon the cross:

C: **Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in him that we may not fear any trouble, but take up our cross in his same spirit of compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

BLESSING

An organ interlude is played.



1:20 PM: The Fourth Station

“WOMEN OF JERUSALEM WEEP OVER JESUS”

HYMN “At the Cross, Her Station Keeping”

1. At the cross her sta - tion keep - ing, Stood the mourn - ful
2. Oh, how sad and sore dis - tressed - ed Was that moth - er
3. Who, on Christ's dear moth - er gaz - ing, Pierced by an - guish

moth - er weep - ing, Close to Je - sus to the last.
high - ly bless - ed Of the sole - be - got - ten one!
so a - maz - ing, Born of wom - an, would not weep?

Through her heart, his sor - row shar - ing, All his bit - ter
Oh, the depth of her af - flic - tion As she saw the
Who, on Christ's dear moth - er think - ing, Such a cup of

an - guish bear - ing, Now at length the sword had passed
cru - ci - fix - ion Of her dy - ing, glo - rious Son!
sor - row drink - ing, Would not share her sor - rows deep?

P: You have turned my mourning into gladness.

C: **Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.**

LESSON Luke 23:27-31

RESPONSE

C: **Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the cross an off'ring,
Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in your suff'ring!
You died our guilt to banish That none in sin need perish!
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus!**

MEDITATION Pr. Christopher Johnson

RESPONSE

"Jesus Comforts the Women of Jerusalem" from *Stations of the Cross*

... Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

Before he ascends the mountain for the last time, Jesus raises his hand and turns toward the people following him, a few poor women in tears with their children in their arms.

Let's not simply look, let's listen to Jesus, for he is there.

--Paul Claudel (1868-1955)

Please kneel.

PRAYER

P: O God, the Comfort of all who hope in you:

C: **teach us not to weep for your Son's pain, but for the sins that his pain forgave, and make his mercy for the whole human race our greatest consolation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

BLESSING

An organ interlude is played.



1:40 PM: The Fifth Station

"JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS"

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

... LSB #449

P: They divided my garments among them.

C: **And for my vesture they did cast lots.**

LESSON John 19:23-25

RESPONSE

C: **Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the cross an off'ring,
Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in your suff'ring!
You died our guilt to banish That none in sin need perish!
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus!**

MEDITATION Pr. Steven Gjerde

RESPONSE "Drop, Drop Slow Tears" ... Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

*Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,
Which brought from heaven the news and Prince of peace.*

*Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.*

*In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.*

--Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

Please kneel.

PRAYER

P: Strip us, O Lord, of our former self with its evil deeds and ways,

C: **and clothe us with the holiness of Christ, that we, his brethren, with all the children of Adam and Eve, may be adorned with glory, now and forever. Amen**

BLESSING

An organ interlude is played.



2:00 PM: The Sixth Station

"JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS"

HYMN "In Silent Pain the Eternal Son"

... LSB #432

P: They have pierced my hands and my feet.

C: **They have numbered all my bones.**

LESSON Luke 23:32-33

RESPONSE

**C: Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the cross an off'ring,
Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in your suff'ring!
You died our guilt to banish That none in sin need perish!
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus!**

MEDITATION Pr. Christopher Johnson

RESPONSE

"Thee We Adore, O Savior"

... Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

*Thee we adore, O Savior, bless Thee and praise Thee forever,
For on the holy cross, Thou hast the world from sin redeemed.
Thee we adore, O Savior, bless Thee and praise Thee forever.*

--Latin hymn; trans. Nicholas Douty (1870-1955)

Please kneel.

PRAYER

P: O Jesus, crucified for me,

**C: subdue my heart with your holy fear and love, and since my sins
were the cruel nails that pierced you, grant that in sorrow for my past
life I may pierce and nail to your cross all that offends you. Amen**

BLESSING

An organ interlude is played.





2:20 PM: The Seventh Station

"JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS"

HYMN "Were You There" (*stanzas 1 – 3*)

... LSB #456

P: Christ for our sake became obedient unto death,

C: **even the death of the cross.**

LESSON Matthew 27:45-54

RESPONSE

C: Lamb of God, pure and sinless, Once on the cross an off'ring,
Patient, meek, though guiltless, Forsaken in your suff'ring!
You died our guilt to banish That none in sin need perish!
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus!

MEDITATION Pr. Steven Gjerde

RESPONSE "Surely He hath Borne our Grievs" ... Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

--Isaiah 53:4

Please kneel.

PRAYER

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,

C: **who at the sixth hour was crucified for the redemption of the world,
and did shed your precious blood for the remission of our sins:
grant us, we beg you, that when we die we may enter the gates of
Paradise through your merits and your victory over death. Amen**

BLESSING

An organ interlude is played.



2:40 PM: The Eighth Station

"JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB"

HYMN "O Darkest Woe" (*stanzas 1 – 5*)

... LSB #448

P: My body also shall rest in hope,

C: **for you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your Holy One see the pit.**

LESSON Matthew 27:55-61

MEDITATION Pr. Christopher Johnson

Please kneel.

PRAYER

P: O Jesus, most compassionate Lord,

C: **we adore you, who are enclosed in the tomb. We desire to enclose you within our hearts, that, united with you, we may rise to newness of life, and by the gift of faithful confession, may also die in your grace. Amen**

RESPONSE "Pie Jesu"

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem.

Pie Jesu, Domine,

dona eis sempiternam requiem.

--Latin liturgical text

... Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them rest.

Blessed Jesus, Lord,

give them eternal rest.

LITANY OF THE PASSION *Please kneel.*

P: O Lord,

C: **have mercy upon us.**

P: O Christ,

C: **have mercy upon us.**

P: O Lord,

C: **have mercy upon us.**

P: God the Father in heaven,

C: have mercy upon us.
P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C: have mercy upon us.
P: God the Holy Spirit, sanctifying us in Holy Baptism,
C: have mercy upon us.
P: O holy and blessed Trinity,
C: have mercy and hear us.
P: O Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, hated by the world, sold for thirty pieces of silver, sweating blood in your bitter agony, betrayed by Judas, forsaken by your disciples,
C: have mercy and hear us.
P: O Jesus Christ, struck upon the cheek, accused by false witnesses, spit upon in the face, denied by Peter, mocked by Herod, scourged by Pilate, rejected for Barabbas,
C: have mercy and hear us.
P: O Jesus, burdened with the cross, crowned with thorns, stripped of your clothing, nailed to the tree, reviled by your nation's leaders, taunted by the malefactor, wounded in the side, giving your holy and precious blood, forsaken by your Father, dying for our sins,
C: have mercy and hear us.
P: O Jesus, taken gently from the cross, laid in the sepulcher, rising gloriously, ascending brilliantly into heaven, sending upon your Church the Holy Spirit,
C: have mercy and hear us.
P: O Jesus our Sacrifice, our Prophet, Priest, and King,
C: have mercy and hear us.
P: Be merciful.
C: Spare us, O Lord.
P: Be merciful.
C: Graciously hear us, O Lord.
P: From all sin, from all evil, from anger and hatred,
C: Lord Jesus, deliver us.
P: From malice and revenge, from unbelief and hardness of heart,
C: Lord Jesus, deliver us.
P: From blasphemy and sacrilege, from hypocrisy and covetousness,
C: Lord Jesus, deliver us.

P: From blindness to the one true faith, from danger of soul and body,
C: Lord Jesus, deliver us.
P: From everlasting death,
C: Lord Jesus, deliver us.
P: We sinners beseech you to hear us, good Lord: That you would spare us,
pardon us, defend your one holy Church, bless your own, convert your
foes, spread the truth, destroy error, break to pieces false gods, and increase
your elect,
C: we beseech you to hear us, good Lord.
P: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: grant us your peace.
P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless your name forever;
C: by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
**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. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen**

Please stand.

HYMN "O Darkest Woe" (*stanzas 6 & 7*)

... LSB #448

SILENT RECESSION

*The pastors will lead the congregation to Grant Street, then **east on Grant Street** and **circling the block to Luther Square**, where a brief outdoor devotion will be held.*

*After the devotion, the cross will proceed **westward around the block** and return to church through the **Grant Street entrance**.*

Please follow quietly and reverently. At each corner (symbolizing the corners of the earth), we pause to proclaim:

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

C: **By your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

+ + +

Serving at Worship

<u>Pastors:</u>	The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
<u>Organist:</u>	Kantor Jacob Drengler
<u>Choir:</u>	The Zion Kantorei
<u>Soloists:</u>	Cyndi Reuter, Jim Speckhard, Karla Tennant
<u>Horn:</u>	Meagan Cihlar
<u>Violin:</u>	Mary Premeau
<u>Radio:</u>	Dick Ames, Adam Holzschuh

Acknowledgements

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Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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