



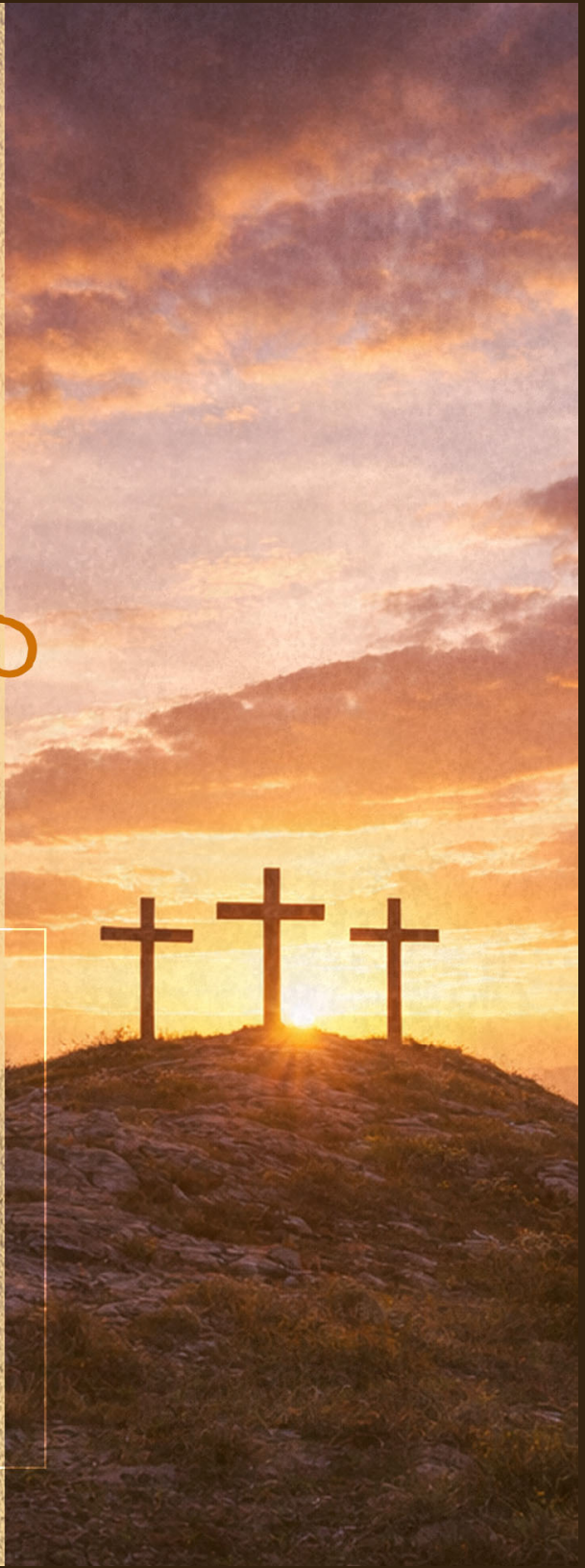
# GOOD *Friday*

April 3, 2026  
7:00 PM

When he had  
received the drink,  
*Jesus said,*  
“It is finished.”

With that, he  
bowed his head  
and gave up  
his spirit.

John 19:30, NIV



✠ Good Friday ✠  
April 3, 2026 — 7:00 PM

**Welcome:** Ever since the beginning of the earthly ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ (and even before!), the old evil foe, Satan, had in mind to defend his stolen realm. He used Herod's lie ("that I may come and worship Him too") to focus his murderous aim at the little town of Bethlehem. The first face-to-face battle in the wilderness employed the tools of temptation, but they failed. All along the way, the enemy inspired officials of both church and state to trip up the Lord of Life. He even manipulated the Lord's own disciples to speak against God's plan—Thomas, Judas, and of course Peter: "Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You," to which Jesus said, "Get behind Me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:22–23). But finally, on this dark day, the adversary was certain he would finally take down the so-called Savior from sin and death by means of sin and death itself. "O sorrow dread! Our God is dead" (LSB 448:2). But this final, sudden-death matchup would not be just another temptation like any before. Our Good Friday gathering is not a minor nor optional step on our way to the expected "happy ending" of Easter. Here is not written a brief obituary of a

sad end but rather the crowning accomplishment of the King of the Jews, the King of Creation, the Lord of Life, who defeats sin and death through death itself. By His death, all who are baptized have died to sin and Christian cemeteries are now but waiting rooms as God has transformed the punishment of death to be, rather, the final remedy for sin as the Christian "who has died has been set free from sin" (Romans 6:7).

**Cushions** are available for those who may need them; ask an usher for assistance.

**Nursery Welcomes Your Child:** The church nursery is available during both Sunday worship services and Sunday school for preschool age children and younger. The nursery is staffed with a professional Nanny. It is located to the right as you enter the building.

**Quiet Room:** The Luther Room (located at the end of the hall to the left as you enter the building) is available for use as a "quiet room." It is equipped with comfortable chairs and a TV that shows the service.

**Assisted Listening Devices:** are available for those who have trouble hearing the service. Please see an usher to use one.

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## Acknowledgments

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**Gathering People to Christ, Building Believers in Christ, Serving the World as Christ**

2113 Ravenna Street • Hudson OH 44236-3451 • 330.650.6550

Fax: 330.650.6685 • web: [gloriadeihudson.org](http://gloriadeihudson.org)

**The Rev. Dr. Eric Tritten**, Senior Pastor, x28

**Bob Brantsch**, Director of Christian Education, x27

**Sue Anderson**, Director of Music Ministry

**Megan Polak**, Preschool Director, x18

**Laura Boicey & Ryann Jagger**, Co-Youth Directors

**Becka Koudelka**, Office Administrator, x26

**Esther Williamson**, Deaconess

*Please enter in silence and refrain from applause during the service.*

**Choir Anthem**                    **“A Time to Watch, a Time to Pray”** setting by Howard Helvey

A time to watch, a time to pray, a day of wonders is today;  
The saddest, yet the sweetest too, that ever man or angel knew.  
The saddest, for our Savior bore His death that man might die no more.  
The agony, the scourge, the fear, the crown of thorns, the cross, the spear.

And yet the sweetest, for today our load of sin was borne away;  
And hopes of joy that never dies hang on our Savior’s sacrifice.  
O, Savior, blessed be Thy name! Thine is the glory, ours the shame;  
By all the pains Thy love endured let all our many sins be cured.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen. Amen.

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*Stand*

**Confession and Absolution**

**P** Lord our God, You took upon Your shoulders the weight of fallen humanity, becoming the sin offering for us so that we are made righteous in Your sight. Hear us as we bow before Your cross and lay our sins at Your feet.

*In silent prayer, we bring the burdens of our sins to Jesus.*

**P** Gracious Father,

**C** **have mercy upon us. We are undeserving of Your love.**

**P** Loving Lord Jesus,

**C** **take our sins from us. Show us the depths of Your love, found only in the cross.**

**P** Renewing Holy Spirit,

**C** **Guide us and lead us. Enable us by faith to cling to the grace that alone can save. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His great mercy has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross so that we may die to sin and live in His righteousness. By His wounds, you have been healed. As a called and ordained servant of our crucified Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**

**P** 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.**



Christ? Save Yourself and us!”<sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”<sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has

done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> And He said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Prayer

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, in Your infinite mercy, You heard the plea of the dying thief on the cross next to You. We pray that You would open our hearts to welcome those who turn to You and rejoice in their salvation. When our last hour comes, hold us firm in our faith, and bring us also to live with You in paradise. **C** Amen.

### Hymn

“Jesus, Remember Me”

LSB 767 (Sing 2X)

### A Candle Is Extinguished

#### The Third Word: John 19:25–27

<sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved

standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Prayer

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, while You suffered the agony of the cross, Your thoughts turned to the welfare of others. Your concern was for Your mother in her sorrow. We pray that You would regard with pity all parents who mourn the death of their children, and all parents who sorrow because their children have gotten into trouble or forsaken their faith. By the power of Your healing, we pray that parents and children know peace and that relationships be restored.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn

## "At the Cross, Her Vigil Keeping"



At the cross, her vig - il keep - ing, Stood the mourn - ful  
Who, up - on that moth - er gaz - ing, In her an - guish  
For His peo - ple's sins chas - tis - ed, She be - held her  
Near your cross, O Christ, a - bid - ing, Grief and love my



moth - er weep - ing Where He hung, the dy - ing Lord;  
so a - maz - ing, Born of wo - man, would not weep?  
Son de - spis - ed, Scourged and crowned with thorns en - twined,  
heart di - vid - ing, I with her would take my place;



Through her soul of joy be - reav - ed, Bowed with sor - row,  
Who, of Christ's dear moth - er think - ing While her Son that  
Saw Him then from judge - ment tak - en, And in death by  
By your sav - ing cross up - hold me, In your dy - ing,



deep - ly griev - ed, Passed the sharp and pierc - ing sword.  
cup is drink - ing, Would not share her sor - row deep?  
all for - sak - en, Till His Spir - it He re - signed.  
Christ, en - fold me With the death - less arms of grace.

## A Candle Is Extinguished

### The Fourth Word: Matthew 27:45–47

<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that

is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"<sup>47</sup> And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah."

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Prayer

**P** Lord God, Father of all people and Creator of all that exists, You hold all people in Your power. We pray that You would not forsake the world that Your Son died to redeem. Even though we still see the influence of sin and evil all around us, assure us of Your

continued presence in our midst. Help us to know Your love in our lives, so we can show Your presence to others.

**C Amen.**

## Choir Anthem

### “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

arr. Joel Raney

Danae Anderson, cello

## A Candle Is Extinguished

### The Fifth Word: John 19:28–29

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” <sup>29</sup> A 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.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, You endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place. We thirst for the healing that only You can provide. When we find ourselves suffering, give us peace and patience to endure the pain that comes our way. Bring to our minds all that You endured for us and give us the strength to bear our burdens by the grace of Your holy example. **C Amen.**

## Hymn

### “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB 451, vss. 1–2

## A Candle Is Extinguished

### The Sixth Word: John 19:29–30

<sup>29</sup> A 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.

<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your Father for the sake of us and the world. We pray that You would complete in us also everything that You intend for us, so that as children of the heavenly Father, we may live for His glory. **C Amen.**

## Organ Meditation:

### “Come, Sweet Death”

by Johann Sebastian Bach

## A Candle Is Extinguished

### The Seventh Word: Luke 23:44–46; Matthew 27:51

<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your

hands I commit My spirit!” And having said this He breathed His last. ...

<sup>51</sup> And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Prayer

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, as You gave Your life on the cross in our place, You commended Your spirit into the loving hands of Your heavenly Father. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things. When our last hour comes, grant us peace, that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the hands of our heavenly Father.

**C** Amen.

**Hymn** "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" **LSB 447, vss. 1, 16, 19**

### A Candle Is Extinguished

#### Reading John 19:38–42

<sup>38</sup>After 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. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in

weight. <sup>40</sup>So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now 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. <sup>42</sup>So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### The Christ Candle Is Removed

#### Lord's Prayer (whispered)

**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**

#### Strepitus (The Tomb Is Sealed)

*The loud, sudden sound following the Lord's Prayer is to symbolize the death of Jesus and the closing of the tomb. As we depart from this service in silent meditation, we remember our need for deliverance and forgiveness and the price paid for achieving and fulfilling God's promises. It is finished.*

#### The Bell Tolls Thirty-three Times

#### The Christ Candle Is Returned

#### Silence for Meditation | All Exit in Silence