

torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford**

**MUSIC**

— *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* ~ Jill Sousek, piano [1 PM]

— *The Night Before the Savior Died* ~ ZION Choir [6 PM]

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD’S PRAYER** [TRADITIONAL]

**HYMN #353 — *Were You There?***

**DISMISSAL**

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

**People:** Oh, come, let us worship Him.

**Pastor:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



**RECESSIONAL**

*Please leave in silence at the conclusion of the service.*



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*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



# ZION Lutheran Church

APRIL 3, 2026

GOOD FRIDAY



## The Roman Centurion

*The Man Who Recognized God’s Son*

# Good Friday

## INVOCATION & CONFESSION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,

People: **Who gave up his only Son.**

Pastor: and of the Son,

People: **Who gave up perfection to suffer and die.**

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,

People: **Who calls to mind our Lord's passion and fills us with peace.  
Amen! Amen!**

Pastor: This Good Friday, we cannot help but acknowledge that it is our sinfulness that hung him on the cross. We cannot blame it on anyone else. It is our fault, our own fault, our most grievous fault. We come to the Father on this most solemn of Fridays to confess our guilt.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)

People: **Heavenly Father, I, a poor miserable sinner confess to you all my sins and iniquities. I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have not kept your Son's command to love others. I have not done the good you demand, but instead I have done the evil you forbid. It is my sin that made it necessary for him to go to the cross. On account of his sinless suffering and death I boldly throw myself at your feet and ask for your mercy upon my soul. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.**

Pastor: God has heard your cry for mercy! It is because of his great love for you that he sent his Son to die. Christ's sacrificial love is the reason your sins are forgiven. As a called and ordained 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.

People: **Amen! Amen!**

## HYMN #349 — *Ah, Holy Jesus*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**MUSIC** — *What Wondrous Love Is This* ~ Jill Sousek, piano [11 AM]  
— *Wondrous Love* ~ ZION Choir [6 PM]

## HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel, according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### *Mark 15*

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now, at the festival, he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now, a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and asked Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized it was out of jealousy the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (*the governor's headquarters*); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (*which means the place of a skull*). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was