

Friday, April 7, 2023
Good Friday

Service Theme
Jesus Addresses Our Greatest Needs from His Cross

Our service will focus on the seven words or statements Jesus spoke from the cross and the great comfort they offer us. Every statement reveals Jesus as our Saviour. Every one of them shows how Jesus addressed our greatest needs.

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Confession

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy by singing the hymn "Lord, To You I Make Confession."

Hymn

"Lord, To You I Make Confession"
(CW 302)

**Lord, to you I make confession:
I have sinned and gone astray;
I have multiplied transgression,
Chosen for myself my way.
Led by you to see my errors,
Lord, I tremble at your terrors.**

**Yet, though conscience' voice appall me,
Father, I will seek your face.
Though your child I dare not call me,
Yet receive me to your grace.
Do not for my sins forsake me;
Do not let your wrath o'er take me.**

**For your Son has suffered for me,
Giv'n himself to rescue me,
Died to save me and restore me,
Reconciled and set me free.
Jesus' cross alone can vanquish
These dark fears and soothe this anguish.**

**Lord, on you I cast my burden
Sink it in the depths below!
Let me know your gracious pardon;
Wash me, make me white as snow.
Let your Spirit leave me never;
Make me only yours forever.**

Absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.

C: Amen

Prayer

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Saviour, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen

Introduction

The purpose of our Good Friday service is to celebrate Christ's death on the cross. That might sound strange because people do not usually celebrate death. But we realize that Christ's death was no ordinary death. It was the climax of God's work on behalf of sinful humanity. Jesus died so that we might have eternal life through faith in him, and to our ears, that ought to be the most fantastic news one could ever hope to hear: news worthy of celebration.

The evangelist Mark tells us that it was the third hour, or about 9:00 am, when they took Jesus to Golgotha to crucify him; and that it was about the 9th hour, or 3:00 pm, when he died. So, for about 6 hours, our Lord hung on the cross. And during those 6 hours, we have recorded in Holy Scripture 7 words, or sentences, that He spoke from the cross. On this Good Friday, we will meditate on those seven words and apply them to our hearts.

Hymn

"Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"
(CW 119)

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

(In the following part of the service, the pastor will ask for the word Jesus spoke from the cross. The men will respond with the selected word, and the women will respond with a portion of Scripture that comments on the Word.)

The First Word

Pastor: The first word of Jesus from the cross is:

Men: **“Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.”** (Luke 23:34 EHV)

Women: “Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great, and with the strong he will share plunder, because he poured out his life to death, and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners. He himself carried the sin of many, and he intercedes for the rebels.” (Isaiah 53:12 EHV)

Scripture Reading and Commentary

The time was about 9:00 am when Jesus spoke his first word from the cross. It is recorded in the Gospel of Luke, where we read:

Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” They cast lots to divide his garments among them. (Luke 23:32-34 EHV)

It is truly amazing that Jesus’ first word from the cross is a prayer asking His Father to forgive his enemies. One would think that his first word would be anger and contempt after being falsely condemned, mocked, scourged, and crucified. But it isn’t; instead, Jesus prays: *“Father, forgive them.”*

Who does he mean by the word “them?” The soldiers who drove the nails through his hands and feet? The Jews, who cried out, “Crucify him?” Pontius Pilate, who signed the death warrant? Yes, he meant them; but also many more than just them. He was dying to pay for the sins of his mother standing beneath the cross, and the sins of his scattered disciples, and, going back in time, he was dying to pay for the sins of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and our first parents, Adam and Eve. Jesus’ prayer for forgiveness also extended to all future generations. *“Father, forgive them,”* includes you and me.

God the Father granted Jesus’ request and forgave the world’s sins for Jesus’ sake. How do we know? His resurrection from the dead proves it. His ascension into heaven shows that humanity has been reconciled with God.

In this way, Jesus has satisfied our greatest need in life: our sins, whether counted as big or small in the eyes of humans, are all washed away by the sacrifice Jesus made.

May we learn from this first word from the cross our need for forgiveness and rejoice that God does forgive us for Christ's sake. May we also learn to be like Jesus: forgiving one another just as he forgave us.

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, we often hold grudges against people, curse them, seek revenge, or don't speak to them. As you forgave those, who nailed you to the cross, forgive us too. Help us forgive others - even our enemies – as you have forgiven us. In your name, we pray. Amen

Response

(To the tune of CW 324)

**“Forgive them, Father,” Jesus said,
“They know not what they do.”
They know not whom they crucified
Who died for their sins too. “**

The Second Word

Pastor: The second word of Jesus from the cross is:

Men: **“Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”** (Luke 23:43 EHV)

Women: “In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am.” (John 14:2-3 EHV)

Scripture Reading and Commentary

Jesus' second word from the cross is a word of comfort. Luke continues to describe what happened that first Good Friday when he writes:

They cast lots to divide his garments among them. The people stood watching. The rulers were ridiculing him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!” The soldiers also made fun of him. Coming up to him, they offered him sour wine, saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription written above him: “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, “Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:34-43 EHV)

The second word Jesus spoke from the cross is almost as amazing as the first. Whereas Jesus spoke his first word to his heavenly Father as a prayer, he spoke his second word to a man as an answer to a prayer!

One of the thieves on the cross beside Jesus confessed his need for forgiveness. Genuinely sorry for his sins, he pleaded, *“Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”* Jesus said to him, *“Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”*

Here we see God’s absolute grace in saving unworthy sinners. This man was a robber - maybe even a murderer to have been sentenced to crucifixion. Who of us would consider inviting such a man as a guest in our homes? And yet Jesus assures him of a place in his father’s house in heaven. Notice how emphatic Jesus is, *“Amen I tell you (I give you my word of honour): Today you will be with me in Paradise.”* There is no hint of purgatory where he’d be purged of his sins; there is no threat of hell. *“Today,”* from that moment on, he would be with his Saviour. What a wonderful, undeserved gift!

Our forgiveness and salvation are gifts that we can neither earn nor deserve. The Scriptures say: *But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses... Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.* (Ephesians 2:4-5,8-9 EHV)

Like the thief on the cross, whenever we come before Jesus in humble and sincere repentance, he tells us, *“Be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven.”* Believing in Jesus’ promise, we can be confident that, when our last hour comes, we too will hear him say, *“Today you will be with me in Paradise.”* And then, closing our eyes in peace, we will open them in glory.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, grant that we safely pass through our earthly life supported by your Word, that you may also bring us safely into your heavenly mansion. Enable us to sing your praise this day and forever. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

Response

“There is a Fountain”
(CW 112:1-3)

**There is a fountain filled with blood
Immanuel was slain
And sinners who are washed therein
Lose ev'ry guilty stain,
Lose ev'ry guilty stain.**

**The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away,
Washed all my sins away.**

**Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved and sin no more,
Be saved and sin no more.**

The Third Word

Pastor: The third word of Jesus from the cross is:

Men: **“Woman, here is your son!”**

Pastor: Then he said to the disciple,

Men: **“Here is your mother!”** (John 19:26 EHV)

Women: “He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.” (Luke 2:51-52 EHV)

Scripture Reading and Commentary

Jesus’ third word is a word of physical concern. The apostle John, who was both an eyewitness of the crucifixion and to whom Jesus entrusted the care of his mother, writes:

Jesus’ mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother!” And from that time this disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:25-27 EHV)

After hours of suffering on the cross, one might think that Jesus would finally begin to think of himself. No.

Instead, his eyes are now drawn to two people standing near the foot of the cross: his mother Mary and his beloved disciple John. He says: *“Woman, here is your son!”* And to John, *“Here is your mother!”*

One can only imagine the horror that Mary must have felt as she stood beneath the cross. Why was this happening? What would she do now? Where would she go? Our Lord recognized her need and graciously provided for her even in his hour of suffering. He gave her a new son to care for her in his place: his beloved disciple John.

While Jesus' primary purpose in coming to this earth was to meet our great spiritual needs, he is nevertheless also concerned about our physical life. Unfortunately, when problems arise, we often forget that God is concerned about our physical well-being. We may even go so far as to blame him for all that is wrong in our life instead of looking to him for help.

Regardless of what troubles we face in life, the place for us to be is with Mary and John at the foot of the cross. Take your needs to Jesus, trusting in his compassion to help. He will give you the strength and aid you need to endure – just as he did for Mary. He will keep his promise to work in all things for the good of those who love him.

Prayer

Dearest Lord of lords and King of kings, your concern for your mother reminds us of the concern and love we should have for our parents. Bless all our parents who are still living. Help us care for them as you cared for your mother - even while hanging on the cross. In your name, we pray. Amen

Response

“Jesus Loving to the End”
(*To the tune of CW 139*)

**Jesus, loving to the end,
Her whose heart your sorrows rend,
And your dearest human friend:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we in your sorrow share,
For your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy your tender care,
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we all your loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving for the love of Thee:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

The Fourth Word

Pastor: The fourth word of Jesus from the cross is:

Men: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** (Mark 15:34 EHV)

Women: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? My groaning does nothing to save me. My God, I call out by day, but you do not answer. I call out by night, but there is no relief for me.” (Psalm 22:1-2 EHV)

Scripture Reading and Commentary

Matthew recorded for us the most agonizing scene of Jesus' passion. He writes:

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46 EHV)

From about noon until 3 pm, terrifying darkness fell upon the land. This was not just the darkness of storm clouds gathering overhead or a spectacular solar eclipse. God sent this darkness, which matched the agony our Lord was enduring as he hung upon the cross. Even worse than the physical pain of crucifixion, Jesus endured the agony of being forsaken by God. During three long hours - saying nothing but suffering everything - Jesus finally reaches the depths of his humiliation and cries out in agony, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

The words are not difficult to understand, yet the depth of their meaning lies beyond our comprehension. How can we conceive of Jesus, who is the true God from all eternity, being forsaken by God? Yet it happened. The Holy Spirit explains why it happened when he inspired the apostle Paul to write: *"God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him."* (2 Corinthians 5:21 EHV)

Here's the mystery: the one hanging on the cross is the perfect and innocent God-man, Jesus Christ. He is without sin, yet he endures the punishment of every sin that has been or ever will be committed on this evil earth.

Whenever we sin, we forsake God by turning away from his commandments. We, therefore, deserve to be eternally forsaken by him. Jesus, however, took our sins upon us and was forsaken by God to reconcile us to him. The Bible says: *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us."* (Galatians 3:13 EHV)

As we hear this fourth word of agony, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* may we realize the hell we deserve because of our sin. That will give us a greater appreciation for what Jesus endured to win our salvation.

Prayer

Almighty God, Ruler over heaven and earth and Judge of the living and the dead, grant that we never experience separation from you. You have made Christ to be sin for us so that we might receive His righteousness as a gift. Keep us in your grace and favour for your mercy's sake. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Response

“Throned upon the Awe-full Tree”
(To the tune of CW 385)

**Throned upon the awe-full tree,
King of grief, I watch with Thee.
Darkness veils your anguished face;
None its lines of woe can trace,
None can tell what pangs unknown
Hold you silent and alone.**

**Silent thro’ those three dread hours,
Wrestling with the evil powers,
Left alone with human sin,
Gloom around you and within,
Till th’ appointed time is nigh,
Till the Lamb of God may die.**

**Hark the cry that peals aloud
Upward through the whelming cloud!
You, the Father’s only Son,
You, His own Anointed One,
You do ask Him, Can it be?
“Why have you forsaken me?”**

**Lord, should fear and anguish roll
Darkly o’er my sinful soul,
You, who once was thus bereft
That your own might ne’er be left,
Teach me by that bitter cry
In the gloom to know you’re nigh.**

The Fifth Word

Pastor: The fifth word of Jesus from the cross is:

Men: **“I thirst.”** (John 19:28 EHV)

Women: “Disgrace has broken my heart, and I am helpless. I waited for sympathy, but there was none. I waited for comforters, but I did not find any. Instead they put bitter poison in my food. For my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.”
(Psalm 69:20-21 EHV)

Scripture Reading and Commentary

Only after accomplishing everything He set out to do for others did Jesus take care of himself. We read in the Gospel according to St. John:

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst." (John 19:28 EHV)

12 - 15 hours had passed since Jesus' last recorded meal with his disciples, and there were probably few, if any, opportunities for him to quench his thirst. Having hung on the cross for so many hours, his bruised and bloodied body must have been severely dehydrated.

But we still might ask: "What does his word, *"I thirst"* have to do with our salvation?" The answer to that question is found in the first part of the verse: *"To fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst."*

To be our Saviour, Jesus had to perfectly fulfill every prophecy in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah. And this is precisely what he did. By fulfilling this seemingly insignificant prophecy from Psalm 69, we are reminded again what a perfect Saviour we have. No one can point to even the smallest detail of his life and say it didn't measure up to what was prophesied about him.

On top of this, when we hear Jesus say, *"I thirst,"* we should realize that he experienced physical thirst so that our spiritual thirst might be forever quenched. Jesus once said: *"I am the Bread of Life... The one who comes to me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty."* (John 6:35 EHV)

Through faith in the Gospel, Jesus quenches our spiritual thirst for forgiveness by giving peace to our troubled consciences. He can do this only because of what He endured on the cross in payment for our sins. Our souls are quenched because of the thirst he felt.

Prayer

Precious Saviour, we praise you for suffering in our place to spare us from all suffering and eternal thirst in hell. Gladden our hearts daily with the sweet water of your forgiveness. Satisfy our souls with your love so our peace and joy may be complete. In your name, we pray. Amen

Response

"Stricken Smitten and Afflicted"
(CW 127)

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

Tell me, as you hear him groaning,
Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning,
Foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him,
None would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

If you think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed;
See who bears the awful load --
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt --
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.

The Sixth Word

Pastor: The sixth word of Jesus from the cross is:

Men: **"It is finished."** (John 19:30 EHV)

Women: "I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, glorify me at your own side with the glory I had at your side before the world existed." (John 17:4-5 EHV)

Scripture Reading and Commentary

The sixth word Jesus spoke from the cross is a word of victory. It is recorded by St. John:

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!" Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit. (John 19:30 EHV)

To hear a bloodied man nailed to a cross say, *"It is finished,"* one might easily conclude that these are words of concession or defeat. But we would be mistaken to think that.

Look again at the man speaking these words and listen more carefully: they are not the words of a man surrendering to death but of him who is claiming victory and life for all humanity.

In many respects, Jesus' sixth statement from the cross is the most comforting and powerful of all. Indeed, it's hard for us to imagine everything it means. It is finished: that which God had planned from eternity, that which Jesus began to accomplish through his lowly birth at Bethlehem, that which he continued each minute of each day of his earthly life, is now perfectly completed. The debt of the world's sin was paid in full. Our relationship with God has been restored.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: do you appreciate what this means for you? The battle is over: in Christ, you have the final victory over sin, death, and the devil's power. You no longer have to live your life in the hope of earning salvation because Christ has earned it for you. You are free from sin, a child of God, and an heir of everlasting life. It is finished.

To be sure, our earthly life is not yet over. We still need to face the trials and troubles that each new day on this earth brings. But, because Jesus said, "*It is finished*," we can meet each new day knowing that God is at peace with us Christians. He will send his Spirit to help us and his angels to protect us. He will provide the strength we need to endure until the day comes when he calls us home to himself in heaven.

"It is finished." Nothing more needs to be done to reconcile us to God. Believe it!

Prayer

Dear Author and Perfector of our salvation: When you spoke, "It is finished" from the cross, you declared that the work you had come to do was accomplished. Redemption was not left half done but entirely won by you. We thank you for completing for us the work that we could not even begin to do. In life and death, O Lord, we will praise you for beginning and finishing our salvation. In your name, we pray. Amen

Response

"O Perfect Life of Love"
(CW 138)

**Oh, perfect life of love!
All, all is finished now,
All that he left his throne above
To do for us below.**

**No work is left undone
Of all the Father willed;
His toil, his sorrows, one by one,
The Scriptures have fulfilled.**

No pain that we can share
But he has felt its smart;
All forms of human grief and care
Have pierced that tender heart.

And on his thorn-crowned head
And on his sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid
That he might make us whole.

In perfect love he dies;
For me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
You died to make me free!

In ev'ry time of need,
Before the judgment throne,
Your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
Your merits, not my own.

The Seventh Word

Pastor: The seventh word of Jesus from the cross is:

Men: **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”** (Luke 23:46 EHV)

Women: “You will pull me out of the net that they hid for me, because you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit. You have redeemed me, O LORD, the God of truth.” (Psalm 31:4-5 EHV)

Scripture Reading and Commentary

Six hours had passed since the nails were driven into Jesus' flesh. It was about three in the afternoon when Jesus spoke from the cross one last time. It is a word of perfect confidence. St. Luke writes:

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” When he had said this, he breathed his last. (Luke 23:46 EHV)

Notice that Jesus didn't merely whisper his last words. No, he cried them out loudly, confident that His Father would hear him.

You see, when Jesus said, “*Father into your hands I commit my spirit,*” he was, in effect, saying: “Father, I have finished my work. Even though you forsook me while on the cross, I am confident you will receive my soul now. Why? Because you have accepted the payment I made for the sins of the world. It is finished. Humanity is now reconciled to you.”

Was God the Father satisfied with Jesus' payment for our sins? Easter Sunday answers

that question with a loud and clear: YES. And because He accepted Jesus' payment and received his soul in peace, Jesus' final prayer has become our prayer.

"Father into your hands I commit my spirit" – what a wonderful prayer of confidence we can pray every night before we go to sleep and every morning when we get up. Because of Christ's death on the cross for our sins, we are at peace with God. He has become our loving Father through faith. He promises to watch over us in life and carry our souls to himself in heaven when we die. We can always commit ourselves to God's loving care, trusting in his mercy to bless us with every good gift we need for Jesus' sake.

Prayer

O precious Saviour, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through you. In our last hour, send your holy angels to guide us into our eternal home. Grant that we may be where you are: to join the company of the blessed, singing your praises eternally. In your name, we pray. Amen

Response

"The Power of the Cross"

**Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.**

**This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every bitter thought,
Every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.**

**This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Now the daylight flees,
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the victory cry.**

**This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.**

**This, the power of the cross:
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

The Christ candle is removed, signifying Jesus' death and burial

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in humble awe, reverent silence, and solemn trembling, as your people we have gathered around your cross to remember your death.

O Christ, friend of sinners, have mercy on us; O Christ, Savior and Redeemer, have mercy on us; O Christ, the only hope of a lost world, have mercy on us.

At your cross, let us see all the ugliness, horror, and misery that sin, death, and Satan brought into the world and that you willingly took on yourself. Open our eyes to see that we deserved the death and torments of hell that you suffered for us.

But open our eyes also to see that by your death you destroyed death, by your sacrifice you reconciled us with your Father, and by the blood you shed you purchased us to belong to you forever.

Help us marvel at the undeserved love you have for us as expressed through your cross. Fill us with joy and peace in believing that we are truly free from condemnation and forgiven by your Father. Help us dedicate our lives in thankful love to you, who gave yourself for us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Hear us, O Lamb of God, who bore all sin for us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

The Christ candle is returned in the hope of the resurrection.

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favour and give you peace. Amen.

Silent Recessional

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

Apr.16 – Luke // Apr. 23 – Timothy

Easter Plants

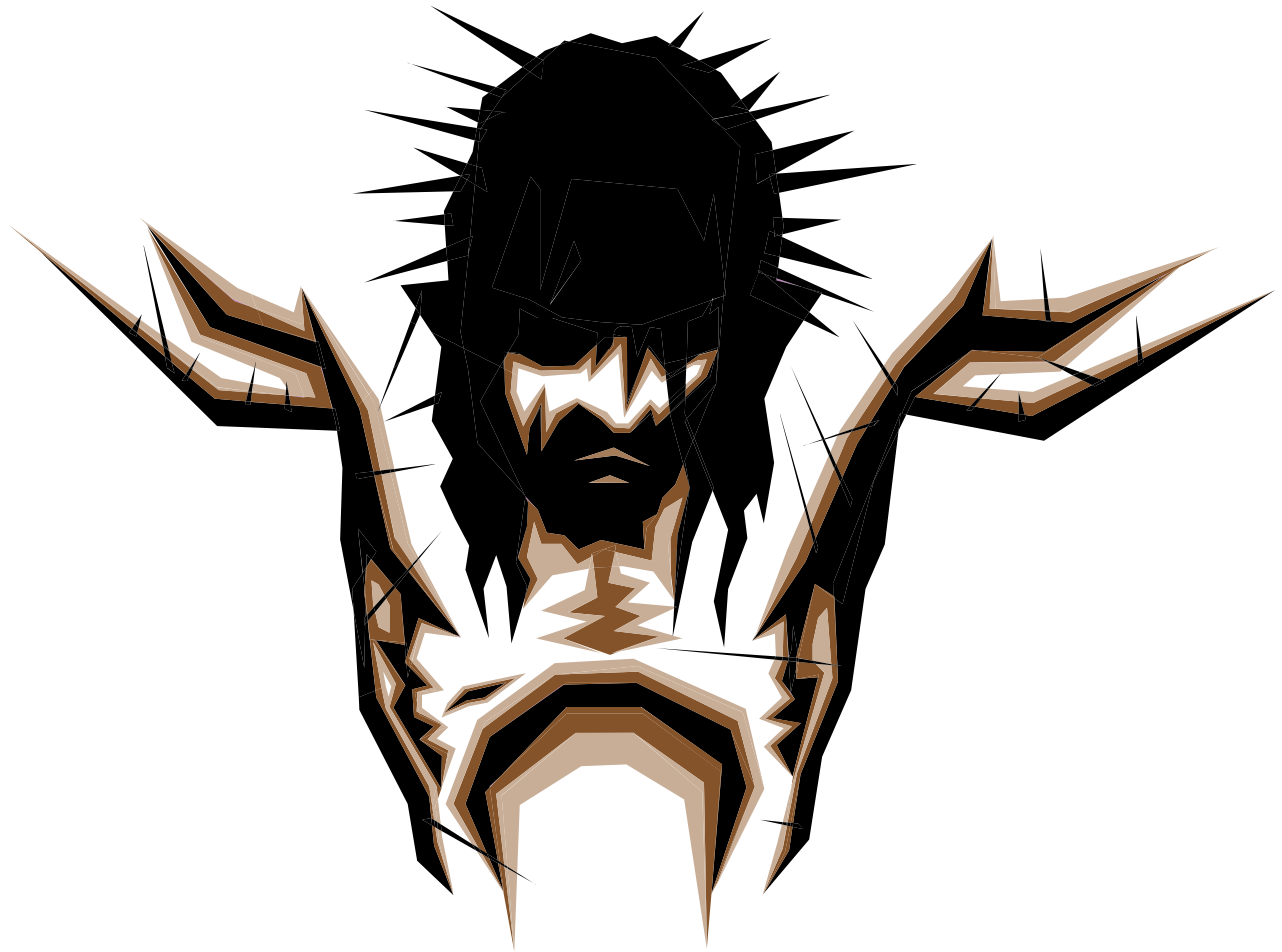
Anyone wishing to contribute towards beautifying the altar for Easter Sunday are asked to purchase a plant of their own choice and drop it off at the church by noon tomorrow.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (9)	8:00 am	Sunrise Easter Service (with Communion)
	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast
	10:30 am	Regular Easter Service (no Communion)
Tu (10)	4:30 pm	Confirmation (D)
Th (13)	6:30 pm	Confirmation (W)
Fr (14)	3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study: Hebrews
	6:00 pm	Illumine at St. Paul's
Su (16)	9:00 am	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour
	3:00 pm	Worship & Communion in Poltimore

Pastor will be at a Conference in Toronto from April 17-19

Th (20)	6:30 pm	Confirmation (W)
Fr (21)	3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study: Hebrews
	6:00 pm	Illumine at St. Paul's
Su (23)	9:00 am	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour



Divine Word

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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