

Friday, April 3, 2026
Good Friday

Service Theme

OUR PERFECT PRIEST'S PERFECT SACRIFICE

The Bible says: "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." The ceremonial law of the Old Testament, with all its sacrifices and sprinkling of blood, clearly illustrated this truth and prepared God's people for the coming Messiah, who, as a perfect priest, would offer the perfect sacrifice of himself – once and for all – for the forgiveness of all sin. This is what we solemnly celebrate on this great day of remembrance. This is what Good Friday is all about.

420 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

CW 420 sts. 1-3



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,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,



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;
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.



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,
Ah! I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;



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.
this in - deed the cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the **T** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Confession

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.

Merciful Saviour, Lamb of God, Suffering Servant, hear my prayer of confession this hour, for you alone are my hope and my salvation. Look with compassion on me and grant me your assurance of grace, forgiveness, and life eternal.

I, indeed, have been worthy of none of your gifts; I have lived as an island to myself:

**Caring for my own welfare,
Seeking only my pleasure,
Placing my goals first,
Ignoring your will,
Lusting for this world's rewards,
Passing by those in dire need,
Manipulating fellow human beings for my own purposes,
Indifferent to you at worship,
Apathetic in my prayers,
Forgetful of my Baptism,
Unthinking at the Holy Supper,
Lacking zeal for your service.**

For these and all other sins, O Lord, have mercy on me. For all those sins I remember or forget, for those which have scarred my conscience and filled me with a holy dread, for those which seem as nothing to me, yet are abhorrent in your sight: O Lord Jesus Christ, by your most holy wounds and sacred death, have mercy on me and forgive me both guilt and sin alike. Amen.

Absolution

Our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. He loved us so much that he sacrificed himself on the cross to redeem us. All our sins have been paid for in full. Nothing more needs to be done. Do you believe this?

Yes

Then receive the forgiveness Jesus won for you in faith:

I, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

426 Were You There

CW 426



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



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,



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?

Text: African-American spiritual, 19th cent., abr.
Tune: African-American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

The First Candle Is Extinguished

The First Reading

The Wages of Sin is Death, but God Promised a Saviour
(Genesis 3:1-18 EHV)

¹Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, ³but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’”

⁴The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die. ⁵In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was appealing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

⁷The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists. ⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

¹¹God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than all the livestock,
and more than every wild animal.

You shall crawl on your belly,
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

¹⁶To the woman he said:

I will greatly increase your pain in childbearing.

With painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband, but he will rule over you.

¹⁷To Adam he said:

Because you listened to your wife’s voice

and ate from the tree about which I commanded you,
“You shall not eat from it,” the soil is cursed on
account of you.

You will eat from it with painful labor all the days of
your life.

¹⁸Thorns and thistles will spring up from the ground
for you, but you will eat the crops of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you
return to the soil, for out of it you were taken.

For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

565 In Adam We Have All Been One

CW 565 sts. 1-4



1 In Ad - am we have all been one, one
2 We fled our God, and, los - ing him, we
3 But your strong love, it sought us still and
4 O Sav - ior, when we loved you not, you



huge re - bel - lious man; we all have fled that
lost our broth - er too; each sin - gly sought and
sent your on - ly Son that we might hear his
loved and saved us all; O great Good Shep - herd



eve - ning voice that sought us as we ran.
claimed his own, each man his broth - er slew.
shep - herd - voice and, hear - ing him, be one.
of man - kind, now hear us when we call.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976, alt.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-1993

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The Second Candle Is Extinguished

The Second Reading

Isaac Pictures Jesus' Substitutionary Sacrifice
(Genesis 22:1-14 EHV)

¹Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I am here."

²God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains, the one to which I direct you."

³Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son.

Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

⁵Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you.” ⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

⁷Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father?” He said, “I am here, my son.”

He said, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

⁸Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them went on together. ⁹They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

¹¹The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”

Abraham said, “I am here.”

¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

¹³Abraham looked around and saw that there was a ram behind him caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴Abraham called the name of that place “The LORD Will Provide.” So it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

422 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

CW 422 sts. 1-3



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, our guilt and
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, the Lamb of
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll bear what



e - vil bear - ing and, lad - en with the sins of earth,
 God, our Sav - ior; him God the Fa - ther chose to send
 you com - mand me. My will con - forms to your de - cree;



none else the bur - den shar - ing, goes pa - tient on,
 to gain for us his fa - vor. "Go forth, my Son,"
 I'll do what you have asked me." O won - drous Love,



grows weak and faint, to slaugh - ter led with - out com - plaint,
 the Fa - ther said, "and free my chil - dren from their dread
 what have you done! The Fa - ther of - fers up his Son,



that spot - less life to of - fer; bears shame and stripes
 of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and stripes
 de - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how strong



and wounds and death, an - guish and mock - er - y and saith,
 are hard to bear, but by your pas - sion they will share
 you are to save! You make his bed with - in the grave



"Will - ing all this I suf - fer."
 the fruit of your sal - va - tion."
 who built the earth's foun - da - tion.

The Third Reading

Israel's Bloody Sacrifices foreshadow Jesus' Sacrifice for us
(Select verses from Exodus 12 and Leviticus 16 EHV)

Exodus 12:1, 3, 5-7, 12-14

¹The LORD told Moses and Aaron this in the land of Egypt:

³Tell the entire Israelite community that on the tenth day of this month, they are to take a lamb or a young goat for themselves, according to their fathers' households, one lamb per household.

⁵Your lamb must be unblemished, a year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or the goats. ⁶You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month.

Then the whole assembly of the Israelite community is to slaughter the lambs at sunset. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat the lamb.

¹²For on that night I will pass through the land of Egypt. I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the LORD.

¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. There will be no plague among you to destroy you when I strike down the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a memorial for you, and you are to celebrate it as a festival to the LORD. Throughout your generations you must celebrate it as a permanent regulation.

⁵From the congregation of the people of Israel he shall also receive two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a whole burnt offering.

⁶Aaron shall present the bull for his own sin offering, to make atonement for himself and for his household.

⁷He shall take the two male goats and stand them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁸Aaron is to cast lots for the two goats, one lot marked “for the LORD” and the other lot marked “for the scapegoat.” ⁹Aaron shall bring forward the goat that received the lot “for the LORD,” to prepare it as a sin offering, ¹⁰but the goat that received the lot marked “for the scapegoat” is to be kept alive before the LORD, to make atonement upon it in order to send it off into the wilderness as the scapegoat.

¹⁵He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering of the people. He is to bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he had done with the blood of the bull. He is to sprinkle it on the atonement seat and in front of the atonement seat. ¹⁶He shall make atonement for the sanctuary to cleanse it from the uncleanness of the Israelites and from their rebellions and all their sins. This is what he shall do for the Tent of Meeting, which dwells in the midst of Israel's uncleanness.

²⁰When he has finished making atonement to cleanse the sanctuary, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar, he shall present the live goat. ²¹Then Aaron shall lay his two hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the guilt of the people of Israel and all their rebellions and all their sins. He is to put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness in the custody of an appointed man. ²²So the goat will carry all their guilt on itself to a remote, desolate place, and the man will send the goat away into the wilderness.

398 Not All the Blood of Beasts

CW 398



1 Not all the blood of beasts on Is-rael's al-tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n-ly Lamb, takes all our sins a-way,
3 In faith I place my hand on that dear head di-vine,
4 My soul looks back to see the bur-den you did bear
5 Be-liev-ing, we re-joice to see the curse re-move;



could give the guilt-y con-science peace or wash a-way the stain.
a sac-ri-fice of no-bler name and rich-er blood than they.
as pen-i-tent-ly here I stand and lay on him my sin.
when hang-ing on the curs-ed tree; I know my guilt was there!
we bless the Lamb with cheer-ful voice and sing his bleed-ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591 Text and tune: Public domain

The Fourth Candle Is Extinguished

The Fourth Reading

Jesus Offers Himself in Payment for our Sin

(John 19:17-30 EHV)

¹⁷Carrying his own cross, he went out to what is called the Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

¹⁸There they crucified him with two others, one on each side, and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate also had a notice written and fastened on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.”

²⁰Many of the Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’”

²²Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

²³When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took his tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it. Instead, let's cast lots to see who gets it." This was so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

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

So the soldiers did these things.

²⁵Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst."

²⁹A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

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

429 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

CW 429 sts. 1-4



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and
2 Men mock and taunt and jeer you, they smite your
3 Now from your cheeks has van - ished their col - or,
4 My bur - den in your pas - sion, Lord, you have



shame weighed down, now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed,
coun - te - nance, though might - y worlds shall fear you
once so fair; from your red lips is ban - ished
borne for me, for it was my trans - gres - sion,



with thorns your on - ly crown, O sa - cred head, no
and flee be - fore your glance. How pale you are with
the splen - dor that was there. Grim death with cru - el
my shame, on Cal - va - ry. I cast me down be -



glo - ry now from your face does shine; yet, though de -
an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn! Your eyes with
rig - or has robbed you of your life; thus you have
fore you; wrath is my right - ful lot. Have mer - cy,



spised and go - ry, I joy to call you mine.
pain now lan - guish that once were bright as morn!
lost your vig - or, your strength, in this sad strife.
I im - plore you; Re - deem - er, spurn me not!

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153, abr.; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1546-1612

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The Fifth Reading & Sermon

(Mark 15:37-38 EHV)

Jesus is our sacrificial High Priest,

1) whose offering made atonement for all sin.

2) who has opened heaven for all who believe in him.

³⁷Jesus cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last. ³⁸The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

423 The Power of the Cross

CW 423 sts. 1, Ref, 2-4, Final Refrain



1 Oh, to see the dawn of the dark - est day: Christ on the
2 Oh, to see the pain writ - ten on your face, bear - ing the
3 Now the day - light flees; now the ground be - neath quakes as its



road to Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men,
awe - some weight of sin. Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought,
mak - er bows his head. Cur - tain torn in two,



torn and beat - en, then nailed to a cross of wood.
ev - 'ry e - vil deed crown - ing your blood - stained brow.
dead are raised to life; "Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry cry.

Refrain



1-3 This the pow'r of the cross: Christ be-



came sin for us. Took the blame,



bore the wrath; we stand for - giv - en at the cross.

4 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!
(Final Refrain)

Final Refrain

This the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us.
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963. Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
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The Sixth Candle Is Extinguished

The Sixth Reading

Jesus Rests From His Work

(John 19:31-42 EHV)

³¹Since it was the Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath (because that Sabbath was a particularly important day). They asked Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who was crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other man.

³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵The one who saw it has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. ³⁶Indeed, these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones will be broken."

³⁷Again another Scripture says, “They will look at the one they pierced.”

³⁸After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him remove Jesus' body. When Pilate gave him permission, he came and took Jesus' body away. ³⁹Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds.

⁴⁰They took Jesus' body and bound it with linen strips along with the spices, in accord with Jewish burial customs.

⁴¹There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified. And in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²So they laid Jesus there, because it was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was near.

The final candle is extinguished.

The Christ candle is removed, signifying the burial of Jesus.

437 Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labor

CW 437 sts. 1-3



1 Rest, O Christ, from all your la - bor; sleep with -
 2 Peace at last from all your an - guish, wounds in
 3 Help us keep this sol - emn Sab - bath as we



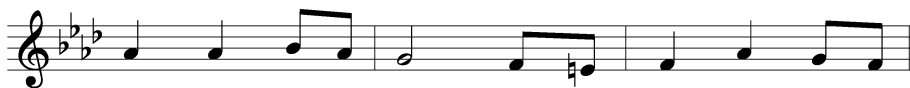
in your bor - rowed tomb. Foes have cru - ci - fied and
 hands and feet and side. En - e - mies no long - er
 wait for Eas - ter dawn. Earth's dark night of sin is



bound you fast with - in death's nar - row room.
 mock you, scourged, a - ban - doned, cru - ci - fied.
 pass - ing; death's long reign will soon be gone.



Pi - late's guards stand watch - ing, wait - ing where they
 Faith - ful wom - en gath - er spic - es, weep for
 Christ, in whom the new cre - a - tion ris - es



rolled the seal - ing stone. All un - seen an - oth - er
 you whom sin has slain. Though they mourn, the God who
 bright - er than the sun: may we, as we watch for



watch - es: God will not for - sake his own.
 guards you will not let your death be vain.
 morn - ing, trust the vic - t'ry you have won.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn, 1850

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Tune: Public domain

The Seventh Reading

Our Perfect High Priest

(Hebrews 9 select verses NIV84)

¹ Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. ² A tabernacle was set up. ³ Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. ⁵ Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover.

⁷ But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

¹¹ When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

¹³ [If] The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

²⁷ Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

The Christ Candle is returned during that last hymn, signifying our hope in His Resurrection.

538 Jesus, My Great High Priest

CW 538



1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, of - fered his blood and
 2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, will I com - mit my
 3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears for my de - fense on
 4 Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell un -



died; my guilt - y con - science seeks no sac - ri -
 cause; he an - swers and ful - fills his Fa - ther's
 high; a gra - cious Fa - ther hears and lays his
 known put their most dread - ful forms of rage and



face be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -
 bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom
 thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can
 mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -



tone, and now it pleads be - fore the throne.
 set - my Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!
 say shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.
 plays su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

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.**

Blessing

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.

Quiet Recessional

- *Feel free to stay as long as you would like in the sanctuary to meditate.*
- *Please respect others' meditation and exit the sanctuary quietly.*
- *The pastor will be outside the main doors to greet you and talk after worship.*

Please come back on Sunday to celebrate your Saviour's Resurrection.

8:00 am - Early Easter Service w/Holy Communion

9:00 am – Easter Breakfast

10:30 am – Easter Lesson and Songs Service.

Acknowledgments

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