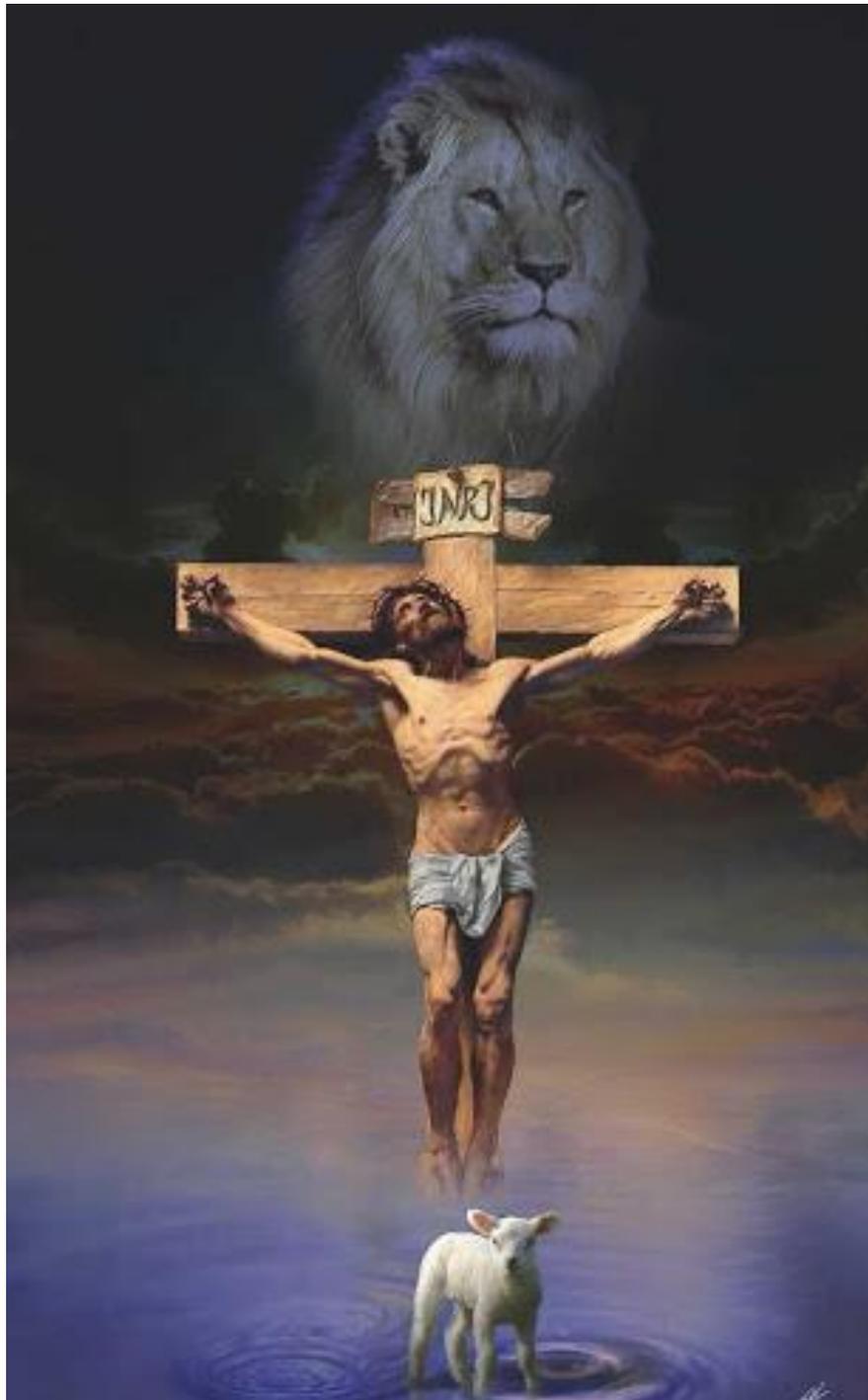


# Ascension Lutheran Church

Online Worship Service  
Good Friday  
April 10, 2020



**AS WE GATHER**

It seems strange to call this day “good.” After all, on this day, Jesus, our Savior and Lord, was tortured, beaten, spit upon, and brutally crucified on a cross. What is good about that? Actually, the goodness of this day is extensive and amazing. At the cross, God’s plan to redeem the world came to full fruition. Rather than ignore our sin, pretend it away, or eternally turn away from us, God became one of us, and in an act of pure self-sacrifice and love, Jesus willingly suffered the worst. For you. For me. For the world. Ours is not a God who says to us, “If you obey Me well enough, then I might love you.” Our God says to us at the outset, “I love you. I willingly gave My life for yours. If you want to see the extent of My love, look to the cross. Let My love draw you to hear and obey Me.” So today’s service is not a funeral for Jesus. It is a way to remember the events of Jesus’ death—including the allusions to it already in the Old Testament. It is an occasion for us to be drawn closer in love to the God who loves us unconditionally. It is an occasion to weep over our sin that made the crucifixion of Jesus necessary. It is an occasion to rejoice in the forgiveness and peace that comes from putting our faith in our crucified Lord. It is an occasion to marvel at the breadth, height, and depth of God’s love for us. Yes, it is Good Friday.

**PRELUDE MUSIC****WELCOME**

Pete Candreva, Elder

**OPENING HYMN: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”** LW 115, vs. 1, 3, & 4

**When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

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## INVOCATION

### TIME OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Elder: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**People: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

Elder: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we have forgotten to fear, love, and trust in You above all things. Forgive us.**

Elder: Lord Jesus Christ,

**People: we confess that we have forgotten to reflect our faith in You in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Forgive us.**

Elder: O Holy Spirit,

**People: we confess that we have forgotten that without Your aid we are helpless to change. Forgive us and renew in us clean hearts so that we find delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Elder: God, our heavenly Father, has not forgotten the promises He made purely by grace. He sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to take the punishment due each of us. His Holy Spirit has worked faith in our hearts so that we put our faith in the Savior. Our sins are forgiven for the sake of His innocent suffering and death and glorious resurrection.

**People: Amen.**

Elder: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

**People: and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.**

**MEDITATION** - "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

Rev. Eric Andræ

**MUSICAL OFFERING:** "Why"

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Elder: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, on the cross Your Son experienced the forsakenness we deserved because of our sins.

**People: Grant that we ever hold firm the faith that because He took our place, by Your abounding grace, we are now Your sons and daughters;**

Elder: through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### PLACING OF NAILS

# + TENEBRAE OBSERVANCE +

Elder: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, beginning in Chapter 18.

People: **Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.** Isaiah 53:4

**READING ONE: John 18:1-14** (The arrest of Jesus) Pete Candreva

*(The first candle is extinguished.)*

**READING TWO: John 18:19-24** (Jesus is questioned by Caiaphas.) Pete Candreva

*(The second candle is extinguished.)*

**HYMN: "Were You There"** LW 505, vs. 1

**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?**

**READING THREE: John 18:28—19:16a** (Trial before Pontius Pilate) Pete Candreva

*(The third candle is extinguished.)*

**READING FOUR: John 19:16b-30** (Jesus is crucified.) Pete Candreva

**HYMN: "Were You There"** LW 505, vs. 2

**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?**

*(The bell is rung 33 times for the life of Christ and the fourth candle is extinguished.)*

**READING FIVE: John 19:31-42** (The burial of Jesus) Pete Candreva

*(The fifth candle is extinguished.)*

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *(is whispered)*

*(The sixth candle is extinguished.)*

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?

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*(The last candle is extinguished.)*

*(The Light of Christ is removed as a sign that Christ has been forsaken by the Father.)*

**STREPITUS** (The stone is rolled in front of the tomb.)

*(The Light of Christ is returned as a sign of hope.)*

*(The Benediction is omitted, indicating that this service is not complete until joined with the celebration of Easter.)*



### OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

Acknowledging the great gift of God the Father in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior, we the people of Ascension Lutheran Church, as guided by the Holy Spirit, are committed to the furtherance of God’s Kingdom. We will share and live the Gospel in our homes, our church, our community, and the world. Motivated by Christ’s love for us, we are dedicated to spiritual growth and unity, worship and fellowship, and compassionate service. We recognize this as our common purpose and pray that God will enable us by His strength and wisdom to seek His will.

