

Sermon followed by Service - April 3, 2026 - Good Friday John 19:28-30

We try, don't we? We buy flowers. We cook. We say we're sorry. We try to make up for what we've done. We try to fix what we broke. We try to dry the tears. We try to be especially nice, eager to do good. We try to make up for what we've done. Unless we're so wrapped up in ourselves we don't care or we think it's unfair. Unless we're so wrapped up in our hurt we think it's hopeless. We try to make up for what we've done.

Sometimes it's good and right that we try to make up for what we've done. When we recognize the pain, the hurt, the cost of what we've done; when we are truly sorry for what we've done and the pain we have caused; when we act out of love and concern instead of self-interest; when we are truly determined not to do it again - then it can be good and right to try to make up for what we've done.

Sometimes it even works. The window we broke is replaced. The tears we caused are dried. The painful memory is buried by good memories. It can be good to make up for what we've done.

So, sometimes, we try that with God. We say we're sorry. We promise to do better. Maybe we are sorry. Maybe we do do better. We might punish ourselves to pay for what we've done wrong. We might discipline ourselves to do more right. We might try to get in good with God by doing good. We might try to gain God's love by doing love. Sometimes we treat God as if he were one of us. We try to make up for what we've done, we try to make up with God by what we do.

But it doesn't work; it can't work. How do you make up for total depravity? We can't make ourselves totally good - in this life our good will always be tainted, in this life we'll always be short. So if ... because even our best falls short, what do we have to offer to make up for what we've done? Nada! How do you erase or cover over a past sin? We might think - by doing some extra good. But God isn't a teacher who awards extra credit to cover over mistakes. With God, there is no such thing as extra credit or extra good; whatever good we do is what we owe him, never extra. Bottom line - there is no way we can make up with God by what we do.

Where does that leave us? Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! And he has had mercy! Instead of looking to us to make up for what we've done, God sent Jesus to do what we can't do. God sent Jesus 1) to be good enough for us, and 2) to make up for us. And what God gave Jesus to do, Jesus did! On the cross, when Jesus said: "Tetelesthai - it is finished," Jesus wasn't talking about his thirst or the wine vinegar they gave him for his thirst. Jesus' word - "tetelesthai, It is finished" - is about something bigger. John tells us Jesus knew that all was now completed. Jesus had done what God had sent him to do. He had fulfilled God's law. God's law that we break, God's standard that we fall short of - Jesus got it right; Jesus fulfilled it, satisfied it, got it done. And not just the "get it right" part of God's law, Jesus also fulfilled, satisfied, paid the "or else" part of God's law. Not with gold or silver, but with his holy precious blood and with his innocent sufferings and death. By giving his perfect life, by dying an innocent death, Jesus paid for - made up for - the sin and guilt of the world. **"It is finished."** Jesus did what we couldn't do.

And Jesus did it for you. In your baptism, you have your sins washed away and Jesus' perfect life applied to you - with Jesus, your sin is gone and you are covered right with God. Some days that's hard to believe, isn't it? So Jesus repeats his promise in the Lord's Supper. As he gives you his body, as he gives you his blood of the covenant, he gives you his New Covenant promise - "I will be your God and you will be my people" - no make up commanded or demanded; no make up charged or billed. How can that be? "I will forgive your sins and remember your transgressions no longer" - no make up commanded or demanded; no make up charged or billed. With Jesus, we don't have to make up with God for what we've done. With Jesus, **"it is finished."**

But we aren't, are we? We have an eternity of Hosannas and Hallelujahs ahead of us. Jesus has done what we couldn't do. Amen.

Good Friday
April 03, 2026

Our service this evening is a Tenebrae service, a service of shadows and darkness, reminding us of the darkness of our sin and guilt, the darkness of the world's hate and anger against God, and, yes, the darkness of God's curse on our sin, charged against Jesus.

In a Tenebrae service, candles are extinguished and lights are dimmed to impress on us the utter darkness and loneliness, the horrible curse that Jesus faced on the cross. As you hear of Jesus' burial and the service closes, expect to hear the *strepitus*.

(In various Tenebrae traditions, the sharp, loud noise of the *strepitus* stands for the earth shaking and rocks breaking at Jesus' death, the stone rolled in front of Jesus' tomb, or the rending of Christ's tomb on Easter morning.) As the seventh candle is removed we are reminded of Jesus' death; as it returns we are reminded that he lives with the Father. As the service draws to a close, see the sign of hope - in the darkness, a light still burns - Easter is coming!

After the service, the congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before leaving quietly. If you wish to speak to the pastor, he will be available in the parking lot, weather permitting.

ORGAN MEDITATION

"Processional to Calvary"

John Stainer

"When On the Cross the Saviour Hung"

J. S. Bach

*"Solemn Prelude – Passion
Chorale"*

Charles Callahan

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Ronald Nelson

"A Lamb Alone Bears Willingly"

Friedrich Zipp

"Sing, My Tongue"

Donald Johns

OPENING HYMN

"Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"

Hymn 419

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
waged in blood on Calvary;
o'er the cross, triumphant trophy,
tell who struggled valiantly;
tell how earth's Redeemer conquered—
victim gaining victory.

Tell how, when at length the fullness
of th' appointed time was come,
he, the Word, was born of woman,
left for us his Father's home,
blazed the path of true obedience,
shone as light amidst the gloom.

Thus, with thirty years accomplished,
he went forth from Nazareth,
destined, dedicated, willing,
did his work and met his death;
like a lamb he humbly yielded
on the cross his dying breath.

Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
be for all the noblest tree;
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit your equal be,

symbol of the world's redemption,
for your burden makes us free.

Unto God be praise and glory;
to the Father and the Son,
to th' eternal Spirit honor
now and evermore be done—
praise and glory in the highest
while the timeless ages run.

Please stand

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

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, in humble awe, in reverent silence, and in solemn trembling, your people 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, 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 believe that we are worth that much to you. 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.

Please be seated

OFFERING (Please fill out friendship pads on pews)

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LESSON OF PROMISE

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Pew Bible, p. 731

The first candle is extinguished.

CHOIR

“He was Wounded”

1. Can it be? Who would believe? Our promised Prince lacked majesty;
Stricken hard, grotesquely scarred-- no face was e'er so cruelly marred.
Ostracized, He was despised, as one from whom men hide their eyes.
Beauty free-- a brittle tree-- yet through Him God's strong arm we see!

Refrain:

He was wounded, He was wounded! Praise our Servant Sacrifice!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah! We are healed by Jesus' stripes!

2. Though He groaned with pain His own, our griefs and tears He bore
alone.

He was scourged as scoffers urged, and by His blood our guilt was
purged.

Soldiers done, God hid the sun, then struck and crushed His precious Son.
For the sin of sheep-like men God chastened God, our peace to win!

(Refrain)

3. Though distressed-- by men oppressed-- He uttered ne'er a mild protest;
Like a lamb, the great "I AM" said naught to those He might have damned.
Innocent, His soul was rent; eternal wrath on Him was spent!

In a cave, a borrowed grave, He lay for those He came to save.

(Refrain)

4. As God willed, His blood was spilled: the guilty spared, the guiltless
killed.

Heaven's King bore Heaven's sting, was poured out as an offering.

Jesus died-- was satisfied-- and many shall be justified.

Throne restored, His prayers outpoured; soon all shall bow to Christ the
Lord!

(Refrain)

LESSON OF ANGUISH AND HOPE

Psalm Prayer - Psalm 22

Father, when your Son hung on the cross, he cried out to you in
agony and grief. You gave him the strength to endure so that death
might be destroyed and life restored. Have mercy on us all our days
and preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting; through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 22C

Refrain

Behold, behold, behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me?

I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;

they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

“He trusts in the LORD,” they say, “let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” *Refrain*

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,

and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

you lay me in the dust of death.

A pack of villains encircles me;

they pierce my hands and my feet.

They divide my clothes among them

and cast lots for my garment. *Refrain*

But you, LORD, do not be far from me.

You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

I will declare your name to my people;

in the assembly I will praise you.

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,

and all the families of the nations will bow down before him.

They will proclaim his righteousness,

declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain*

The second candle is extinguished.

Please stand

LESSON OF FULFILLMENT

**Jesus Crucified
John 19:17-30**

Please sit

The third candle is extinguished.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Upon the Cross Extended”

SERMON

He Spoke a Word of Trust
Luke 23:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”
Hymn 430

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, the rock of our salvation,
is 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 fourth candle is extinguished.

BIDDING PRAYER

The *bidding prayer* is an ancient form of prayer in which a minister bids or invites the congregation to pray.

M: Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to your Word so that in every adversity we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism, that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live new and holy lives, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you, whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and faith so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial:

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our griefs and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation, that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

A moment of silence.

RESPONSE

Sung by the congregation

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Hymn 429 (st. 5)

What language shall I borrow to thank you,
dearest Friend, for this, your dying sorrow,
your pity without end? O make me yours forever,
and keep me strong and true; Lord, let me
never, never outlive my love for you.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

LESSON

**Jesus Buried
John 17:31-42**

The sixth candle is extinguished.

The seventh candle is removed.

A TIME OF SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

THE STREPITUS

The seventh candle is returned.

CLOSING HYMN

Sung by the choir

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Hymn 429 (st. 7)

*Lord, be my consolation, my shield when I must die;
Remind me of your passion when my last hour draws nigh.
My eyes will then behold you, upon your cross will dwell;
My heart will then enfold you – who dies in faith dies well!*

*The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before leaving silently.
If you wish to speak to the pastor, he will be available in the parking lot, weather
permitting.*

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Service Participants

Preacher and Presiding Minister

Pastor Kevin Raddatz

Organist

Mrs. Beth Rockwell

Choir Director

Dr. Tim Samelson

Choir

St. John Senior Choir

Musicians

Ms. Meredith Fein, *violin*

Mr. Charles Ledvina, *bass*

Mr. Tim Samelson, *piano*

Mr. Matthew Curtis, *timpani*

We welcome you to come and worship with us again.

Easter Sunday Festival Service at 9:00am

We also invite you to join us for Easter Food, Fun, & Fellowship,

Sunday immediately after Worship.

Acknowledgements

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