



Good Friday

Following the Way of the Cross

St. Paul Lutheran Church & Pre-School

Rev. Scott Henze

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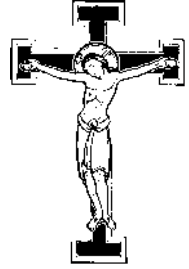
www.stpaulweston.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Classes: 9:45 a.m.

Following the Way of the Cross

April 18th, 2025- 12:00 Noon



Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Leader: We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: In whom is our salvation, our life, and Resurrection.

Narrator:

Today we will walk in the steps of Christ's final days of life on earth. We will follow Jesus' steps to the cross and stand in his shadow. It was not an easy road for our Savior to travel down, but we walk the way of the cross to remember that it is through the cross that we are redeemed.

First Station

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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



Narrator:

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he would now show them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served. Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,'" and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Let us pray.

People: Jesus, sometimes I feel like a servant. I have to wash dishes, take out the trash, and do so many things for other people. But then I think about how you did such a lowly chore of washing your disciples' dirty feet. Help me to remember your example of serving others when I have to do my chores. Thank you, Jesus, for serving us all the way to the cross. Amen.

Second Station

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Narrator:

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "It is one of the Twelve. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

A disciple asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out.

When the hour came, Jesus said to his disciples, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Let us pray:

People: Jesus, sometimes I have so much to get done that I feel overwhelmed. I get so busy and caught up in doing stuff that I forget to remember. I forget to remember all the good gifts that come from you; gifts like family and friends and special times together. Help me to remember how much you love me. Thank you for being present with me when I celebrate the Lord's Supper. Amen.



Third Station



Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Narrator:

Jesus went out as usual to Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, where he often prayed. His disciples followed him and when they arrived Jesus said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, and falling to the ground, he prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will be done."

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him, And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Twice more he went away and prayed the same thing. Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading a detachment of soldiers, some officials from the chief priests, and the Pharisees. They were armed with swords and weapons. Judas approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. That was the signal; the soldiers seized Jesus and arrested him.

Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way? No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Then the soldiers and the religious officials bound and arrested Jesus and led him away to the house of the high priest.

Peter followed at a distance.

Let us pray.

People: Sometimes I betray you too, Jesus, like when I go along with the crowd instead of standing up for the things you've taught me or when I don't care about people in need the way you've asked me. Help me, Jesus, to stand strong and to obey your will. Thank you for taking the cup of suffering for me. Amen.

Fourth Station

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Narrator:

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin had been scheming for days, looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They were the ones who paid Judas to betray Jesus.

Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: "We hear him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet, even then, their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

"I am," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him, "He is worthy of death!"

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Let us pray.

Prayer: Jesus, I know what's right and what's wrong. I know what's true and what's false, but when the pressure is on, it is hard to always do the right thing and speak the truth. Fill me with the confidence and trust in God that *you* had. Thank you for always being there when I call on you to help me do right. Amen.

Fifth Station



Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
People: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Narrator:

The religious leaders led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.

The chief priests accused Jesus of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison who had committed murder. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. Pilate said to them, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"

The chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. Pilate asked them, "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?"

"Crucify him! Crucify him!" they shouted.

Pilate asked, "Why? What crime has he committed?"

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" (Mark 15:3-14).

When Pilate saw he was getting nowhere, but instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your Responsibility." Then he gave Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Let us pray.

People: Jesus, sometimes when people make fun of me or when they are mean to me, it is so hard not to be mean and hateful back to them. Jesus, help me to trust you to be my defender. Thank you for having the courage to love me so much that you died on the cross for me. Amen.

Sixth Station



Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Narrator:

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him.

"Hail, King of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. They beat him and whipped him.

After the soldiers had mocked him, they took off the scarlet robe and they led Jesus away to crucify him. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including women who mourned and wept for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me." Jesus became so weak from the beatings and carrying the cross that he could hardly stand. The soldiers seized Simon from Cyrene out of the crowd. They put the cross on Simon and made him carry it behind Jesus.

The incredible pain our Lord must have felt being led to his crucifixion! Yet, Jesus walked past all the people with such love in his eyes and such compassion on his face— compassion even for those who were being so cruel to him. Then Jesus took his cross, carried it up the hill, and was crucified.

Let us pray:

People: Jesus, there are so many things going on in our world today. Sometimes when I am working through my own problems, I don't see someone else who is sad, lonely, or crying. I feel like getting up and walking away or I just don't do anything at all. But you didn't do that Jesus. You endured the pain and the suffering because you love me so much. You have mercy on me when I sin against you and others because you love me so much. Help me, Jesus to have your endurance, and give me courage and compassion to help others even when I'm hurting. Thank you for always being there when I need you. Amen.

Seventh Station



Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Narrator:

They came to a place called Golgotha, which means "the place of the skull." Two robbers were crucified with Jesus, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him. Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." It was around noon, and the sky grew dark. It was such an eerie darkness, like the light had gone out of the world. At last, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And quietly, Jesus uttered his last words, "It is finished." Jesus bowed his head and died.

After his death, the light returned to the sky and it was then that the Centurian soldier said, "Truly, this was the Son of God."

Let us pray.

People: Jesus, I have trouble forgiving my own family and friends when they do something to make me angry. Help me to learn how to care about all people and how to truly forgive even those who hate me. Thank you for your tremendous sacrifice on the cross and for the forgiveness of my sins. Amen.

Eighth Station



Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Narrator

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of rock.

Jesus' mother and his friends watched as Jesus was placed in this borrowed tomb. Then the entrance of the tomb was sealed with a heavy stone. The women went away to prepare spices. They knew that tomorrow was the Sabbath, and the day after they would return to the tomb with their spices to anoint the body of Jesus. Today, they left with hearts broken in sorrow.

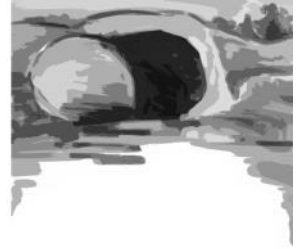
Let us pray.

Jesus, sometimes I feel so alone, like when my good friend moves away or when someone I love becomes very sick. Jesus, please help me to remember that because of Easter, you are alive and with me always. Help me to reach out to the lonely with your presence and love. Help me to give all that I have to you for your glory. Thank you for always being with me, especially in lonely times. Amen.

Narrator:

The events of that Good Friday so long ago left those who loved Jesus broken hearted and hopeless. They did not understand what had happened or why it happened. Jesus suffered so greatly. Why, then, do we call this Friday “Good Friday”?

It is “Good” because we know that the story does not end there. On that Good Friday Jesus went to the cross to suffer and die that we might know God’s incredible love for us and for all people. It is “Good” because the journey doesn’t end outside of a sealed up tomb. The story is not about death and sadness. God’s plan for us is about love and life! Come and see the amazing things that God has done. Come, enter the empty tomb on Easter morning and receive his promises anew!



Ninth Station

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Narrator:

After the Sabbath, on the first day of the week at early dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb taking the spices they had prepared so that they could anoint Him. They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And behold, they saw a young man standing next to them in dazzling apparel.

They were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground. The Angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. See the place where they laid him. Now then, go quickly and tell his disciples and Peter that He has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you!”

The women could not believe their ears. How could this be true? How could this be possible? And yet, when the women looked into the tomb, all they could find was the linen cloth that was used to wrap Jesus’ body. Filled with fear and great joy, the women fled from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples.

Let us pray.

People: Jesus, thank-you for dying and rising for me. Help me to always remember that you give me, life, hope, and strength to face all things. Even when times feel hopeless, nothing is impossible with you. Because you rose, we also have the gift of eternal life. Because of you, we know how much God loves us and forgives us. Thank you, Jesus, for your gift of salvation. Amen.

The Closing

Leader: Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.

People: Save us, and help us, we humbly pray, O Lord.

Narrator:

As you leave our journey of "Following the Way of the Cross," remember the events you have just witnessed, but leave in anticipation and wonder of what the Lord unfolds next! The story of Easter is not over!

Come worship with us at St. Paul Lutheran Church this Easter Sunday, and every Sunday, where we celebrate this glorious ending and God's new beginning! For Jesus death and resurrection was not in vain, but makes us part of God's family forever. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life!" (John 3:16)

Just as the women were filled with great joy to tell Jesus' disciples the good news of his resurrection, we too, want to run and share this Good News. This Sunday, St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christians everywhere will gather to proclaim to the whole world that the one they are looking for is Jesus, and He is risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Please join us to worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church or at your own church home on Easter Sunday and share in the joy of this Easter message!

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!



Thank you for attending today.

Good Friday Service of Darkness at St. Paul tonight at 6:30 PM

Join us for Easter Worship - April 20, 2025

7:00 AM Outdoor Sunrise Service

8:30 AM and 11:00 AM Festival Communion Service

*You may also view our livestream on our You Tube channel.
Go To www.stpaulweston.com/livestream or download the St. Paul Weston App
to stream from the smart phone App.*

St. Paul has something for everyone!

**Sunday Morning Worship
Every Lord's Day!**

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

**Fiesta Latina!
Friday, May 9th
6:00– 9:00 PM**

Live music, food and fellowship!

Weekly Prayer Group

**Wednesday Mornings from
11:00 AM –11:30 AM**

All are welcome to join in!

**St. Paul
Preschool**

Preschool classes for children
Ages 18 months to 4 years old.

Registration is currently open for
2024/2025 school year.

Go to **www.stpaulweston.org**
to request a tour.

**"We enrich your child for life!"
Serving children and families
Since 1993**

Upcoming Youth Events

Confirmation for Middle School Youth

Friday game nights for Middle School Students

Wednesday Spirit Nights for High School youth
from 7:30 –9:00 PM

Senior Sunday, Sunday April 27 for all graduating
High School students

Senior Youth paintball experience on
Saturday, May 10th.

Vacation Bible School (June 9-13)

Spoke Folk Summer Youth Biking Tours

LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 17-25

**Sunday School for
Children and Youth Sunday
at 9:45 AM**

Adult Bible Study at 10 AM.



Thanks
FOR WORSHIPING
WITH US



Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

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Website and online giving

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