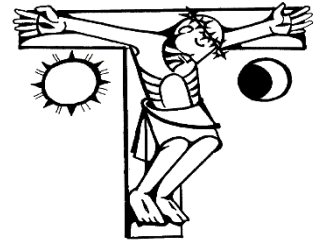


Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
 Good Friday
 zionlutheranaberdeen.org



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Son of God, with the meal over and the table now empty, you sought comfort in the garden and in conversation with God. You sought protection from those who promised never to forsake you. But promises were broken and betrayal imminent.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your willingness to go to the garden, knowing what the outcome would be—wrongfully accused, suffering, and death on the cross. Let us never forget the passionate love you continually displayed, even in the most horrendous of moments. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

SCRIPTURE READING

John 18:1-11

Betrayed

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵ They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, cup of salvation, **you are the Christ, the Messiah, who drank the cup your Father gave you—to suffer and die on the cross for the sin of the world. Give us faith to trust that you died for us. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW #347

Verse 1

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
 all who feel the tempter's pow'r

our Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him on bitter hour:
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 18:12-27

Bound

¹² So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

¹⁹ Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, light of the world, **while your friends and followers deserted and denied you, you let yourself be tried by those who considered you to be an enemy. Give us faith to trust that you will never desert us. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

ELW #349

Verses 1&2

1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee
have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

The first candle is extinguished.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 18:28-40

Before the Authorities

²⁸ Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a rebel.

PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life, **you are a king, but not like earthly kings. You are the king who laid down his life for all of your people, both those who followed you and those who opposed you. Give us faith to trust that you truly care for us. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW #347

Verse 2

2 Follow to the judgement hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

The second candle is extinguished.

SCRIPTURE READING**John 19:1-7***Crown of Thorns*

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵ So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, **you are the Son of God, yet you bore the abuse of those whom you came to save. Give us faith to trust that you forgive us, even when we abuse you. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*****ELW #351**

Verse 1

1 O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine

The third candle is extinguished.

SCRIPTURE READING**John 19:8-16***Before Pilate*

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, the True Vine, **you were caught up in the worst aspects of human politics: you were sacrificed to save the careers of others. Give us faith to trust that you came to serve, rather than to be served. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN

Were You There

ELW #353

Verse 1

1 Were you there
 when they crucified my Lord?
 Where you there
 when they crucified my Lord?
 Ohhhh, sometimes it causes me
 to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there
 when they crucified my Lord?

The fourth candle is extinguished.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 19:16-22

Crucified

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, the Door, **you were crucified next to two revolutionaries, examples of what happens to all who opposed the power of Rome. Give us faith to trust that you are an example of love, rather than hate. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW #351

Verse 2

2 How pale thou art with anguish,
 with sore abuse and scorn;
 how does thy face now languish,
 which once was bright as morn!
 Thy grief and bitter passion
 were all for sinners' gain;
 mine, mine was the transgression,
 but thine the deadly pain.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 19:23-25a

Casting Lots

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, Bread of Life, **you were stripped of all possessions, the things many of us find most valuable: food, water, clothes, shoes, and all the material wealth that we define ourselves by. Remind us that those things do not define us, and give us faith to know our identity as children of God will remain forever. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW #351

Verse 3

3 What language shall I borrow
 to thank thee, dearest friend,
 for this thy dying sorrow,
 thy pity without end?
 Oh, make me thine forever,
 and should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never
 outlive my love to thee.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 19:25b-30

It is Finished

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, the Resurrection and Life, **even as you died, you were making new relationships. Give us faith to trust that your death makes our relationships new with God and with each other. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW #351

Verse 4

- 4 Lord, be my consolation;
shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing
die safely in thy love.

The seventh candle is extinguished.

HYMN

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

ELW #340

Verses 1-4

- 1 A lamb goes uncomplaining forth
to save a world of sinners.
He bears the burden all alone,
dies shorn of all his honors.
He goes to slaughter, weak and faint,
is led to die without complaint;
his spotless life he offers.
He bears the shame, the stripes, the wrath;
his anguish, mockery, and death
for us he gladly suffers.
- 2 This lamb is Christ, our greatest friend,
the Lamb of God, our Savior,
whom God in mercy chose to send
to win us rebels over.
"Go down, my child," the Father said,
"and free my children from their dread
of death and condemnation.
The painful stripes are hard to bear,
but by your death they all can share
the joy of your salvation."

3 Our Savior answered from his heart
that he would take the burden:
"My Father's will is my command;
I'll do as I am bidden."
Oh, wondrous love! Oh, loving might!
To right what mortals cannot right
the Son was sent from heaven.
What love, O Love, who came to save
by loving even to the grave
until the stone was riven.

4 Of death I am no more afraid;
your dying is my living.
You clothe me in your royal robes
that you are always giving.
Your love is dress enough for me
to wear through all eternity
before the throne of heaven,
where we shall stand close by your side,
your church, the well-appointed bride,
when all the faithful gather.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 19:31-42

A Lamb Slain

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may continue to believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Verse 3

3 Were you there
 when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there
 when they pierced him in the side?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me
 to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there
 when they pierced him in the side?

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus, **stripped before all, you bore the weight of humiliation, exposed and belittled. Shame is what they wanted you to feel. What they could not take was your title nor your integrity. You are our king. In all circumstances, help us to always look to your authority. Hear us, Holy Jesus. Amen.**

RECESSION OF THE CROSS

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

We go into our evening in silence, wondering...Where we will see and find God next? Where is God for you when the world is dark? The shadows in our sanctuary symbolize the darkness of Christ's three days in the tomb. But like God's love, this light is never entirely extinguished.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26593.

CCLI Copyright License #2029973 / Streaming License #20579691

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.