

*St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Meyersville, Texas*



*Good Friday
March 29, 2024*

Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974

361-277-8653

Pastor John Boor

March 29, 2024

Good Friday

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

Why has God become man? Why does God have flesh? Why does God have a heart that beats, lungs that breathe, a brain with synapses that fire? For this: to die. His heart beats so that it can stop beating. His lungs draw in breaths and exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide so that they can fill with fluid and stop taking in breath. His brain conducts an electro-chemical symphony so that it can stop abruptly before the final act. His eyes see so that they can be blind. His ears hear so they can be deaf. His hands work so they can be pinned to a wooden cross. His blood courses through His veins so it can flow in rivulets down the post of a torture device and leave a crimson stain in the dirt at a place named "Skull." God is man so that He can die. For you.

THE PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of ✠ the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Brothers and sisters, when God became man, it was no illusion, no spiritual game-playing. Today we are observing, as it were, the funeral of the man Jesus, who is in fact a God who bleeds, a God who dies.

God the Son became a true human being for one purpose: to die for us.

When He compared Himself to a good shepherd, He said,

For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. John 10:17-18

He lay it down even though it meant experiencing human suffering.

When He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil,

He ate nothing during those days.

And when they were ended, He was hungry. Luke 4:2

He was dependent on the kindness of other humans during His ministry. He said, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests,

but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head. Luke 9:58

He kept the cross always in view.
When the days drew near for Him to be taken up,
He set His face to go to Jerusalem. Luke 9:51

When He was warned of physical harm from Herod, He replied,
Go and tell that fox, "Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow,
and the third day I finish My course." Luke 13:32

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

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HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

LBW #107

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock Within a weary land,
A home within a wilderness, A rest upon the way
From the burning of the noon tide heat And burdens of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus, My eye at times can see
The very dying form of one Who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, Two wonders I confess:
The wonder of his glorious love And my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, your shadow For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, My glory all, the cross.**

Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,
Thus securing an eternal redemption
Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,
So that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance,
He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.

Confident of His redeeming love, let us confess our sins to our gracious God.
**Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life
Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

When the man Jesus, our Lord, finished His course on the cross, He was the perfect sacrifice. Like lambs offered in the temple, He was innocent. Like Passover lambs, not a bone in His body was broken. Through the shedding of His blood He made forgiveness available to all who rely on Him for eternal life. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and our sinful condition.

Gracious heavenly Father,
we come before You not as we wish nor as You desire but bringing our faults and failures, our willful sins, and our thoughtless errors. We have put our own physical comfort ahead of loving You. Out of fear of losing food, clothing, or shelter, we have spoken, acted, and thought loveless things toward our neighbors. We cannot free ourselves. Forgive us, renew in us clean hearts, and set our feet on paths of loving obedience to Your will for the sake of the man Jesus, who is Your Son and our Brother. Amen.

Just before He breathed His last, our Lord declared finished the sacrifice for sin that He had always intended. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. . . **Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be delivered from all evil. Restore us through the Passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who gave Himself into death—even death on a cross—for us, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we ask You to open our hearts to know the great love of our Savior

Grant that our worship this day will enable us to grasp the full measure of His love and the depth of His suffering. Send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith in His physical sacrifice so that we may rejoice together in His bodily resurrection;

through Your Son, the man Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you – His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind – so shall He sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for sin, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷ In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸ Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Please stand

GOSPEL VERSE

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 19:16b-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord. (*sung*)

^{16b} So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

"There is a Green Hill Far Away"

LBW #114

There is a green hill far away, Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified, Who died to save us all.
We may not know, we cannot tell, What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.
He died that we might be forgiven; He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heav'n, Saved by his precious blood.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

PRAYERS

Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; Lord in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole Body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers that we offer before You for all Your servants in Your Holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; Lord in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; Lord in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, our president; the Congress of the United States; our governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; Lord in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; Lord in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your Holy Church; Lord in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, King of glory and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; Lord in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; Lord in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, that through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

On a hill far away stood an Old Rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

To the Old Rugged Cross, I will ever be true
It's shame and reproach, gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share

So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

(The congregation leaves in silence)