



*"It is finished" - John 19:30  
Good Friday, April 3, 2026*



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## PRELUDE

Herzlich tut mich verlangen, op. 122, no. 9

(Heartily do I yearn for a blessed end)

Johannes Brahms  
tune, German hymn, c. 1500

### *Cover Image*

*Our cover art today was drawn by Jeff Tokarz, a member of the Bethlehem community. Jeff resumed drawing in 2020 and created this image of Christ as he reflected on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. We are grateful for Jeff's willingness to share this image for our reflection on Good Friday.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The story of Jesus' crucifixion is the central to each of the gospels, though each one records particular details and presents Jesus speaking different words or phrases from cross as he died. In John's gospel, Jesus' speaks his final words: "It is finished." With these words, Jesus reveals that he has accomplished his purpose.*

*Tonight's service is an adaptation of the ancient Tenebrae Service dating from the Eighth Century. It is a service commemorating the suffering and death of Christ and was originally celebrated on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Holy Week. The literal translation of the Latin word Tenebrae is "shadows" or "darkness."*

*The darkness of the chancel caused by the extinguished candles and diminishing light reminds us of the darkness that Jesus himself descended into on Good Friday that we might receive eternal light.*

<b>GATHERING HYMN</b>	<b>O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</b>	<b>ELW 351</b>
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## READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

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

<sup>5:7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud

cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, <sup>9</sup> and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
(HAMBURG)

words, Isaac Watts  
music, Gilbert M. Martin  
tune, Lowell Mason

The Chancel Choir

### **THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL**

**John 18:1-11**

God spared not His own Son  
**But delivered Him up for us all.**

<b>HYMN</b>	My Song Is Love Unknown	ELW 343, sts. 1-4
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### **THE SHADOW OF DENIAL**

**John 18:12-27**

God spared not His own Son  
**But delivered Him up for us all.**

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

Ah, Holy Jesus  
(HERZLIEBSTER JESU)

Cathy Stamegna  
tune, Johann Crüger

### **THE SHADOW OF REJECTION**

**John 18:28-19:7**

God spared not His own Son  
**But delivered Him up for us all.**

<b>HYMN</b>	Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed	ELW 337
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**THE SHADOW OF INJUSTICE**

**John 19:8-16a**

God spared not His own Son  
**But delivered Him up for us all.**

**HYMN**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 338

**THE SHADOW OF TORTURE**

**John 19:16b-27**

God spared not His own Son  
**But delivered Him up for us all.**

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

Toccatà per l'Elevazione, F12.31

Girolamo Frescobaldi

**THE SHADOW OF GOD-FORSAKENNESS**

**John 19:28-30**

God spared not His own Son  
**But delivered Him up for us all.**

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

Behold the Lamb of God

words, John 1:29b  
music, Bob Burroughs

Vocal Quintet

**THE SHADOW OF THE TOMB**

**John 19:31-42**

God spared not His own Son  
**But delivered Him up for us all.**  
Christ humbled Himself, and become obedient unto death,  
**even the death on a cross!**

**HYMN**

Were You There

ELW 353

Stanzas — All: 1 – 4

Cantor: 5

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

May God be merciful and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Worship ends in silence.*

*You may remain in the sanctuary until you are ready to leave.*

## **BLC Pastors**

The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

## **BLC Musicians**

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Chrisanne Gates, Chancel Choir Director

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

### **Additional musical leadership provided by:**

Flute: Sue Cardinal

Violin: Jane Morale

Vocal Quintet: Chrisanne Gates, Kris Kerr, Nancy Price,  
Hans Walter-Peterson, Dave Wideman

Cantor: Hans Walter-Peterson

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“Herzlich tut mich verlangen” - op. 122, no. 9

Tune: German hymn, c. 1500 / adapt. H. L. Hassler; Music: Johannes Brahms

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Text: Isaac Watts; Tune: Lowell Mason

Music: Gilbert M. Martin © 1970 Theodore Presser Company

“Ah, Holy Jesus” Tune: Johann Crüger - HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Arranger: Cathy Stamegna © 2022 Cathy Stamegna

“Toccata per l’Elevazione” – F12.31 Music: Girolamo Frescobaldi

“Behold the Lamb of God” Text: John 1:29b; Music: Bob Burroughs

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***Easter at Bethlehem***

**Easter Sunday, April 5 at 8:55 am (in person and livestream) and  
11 am (in person only)**

**Easter Breakfast served 9:45 – 10:45 am**

## Find Strength and Hope in the Cross

It is difficult as we kneel before the cross to hear the voice of the gospel. We might imagine that it waits for us at Eastertide, that tonight the law says its peace and come Sunday the gospel will finally win the day, but that is not so. The gospel spells freedom for those held captive to sin. The resurrection only matters for those who know they are dead.

We, who are both saints and sinners, kneel before the cross today or tonight and hear it speaking to us as both verdict and promise. It is true: each of us is guilty of our participation in the world's suffering. We, each bearing the image and likeness of God in our very skin, do not respect that image in one another, much less the world we inhabit, God's good garden.

We do not respect God's creations—one another, or the world we live in. We put one another on the crosses at which Jesus now joins us. We must admit this or there is no need for the salvation Christ brings. We must admit we are in bondage to these patterns of human violence and environmental degradation before we can be liberated from them.

This is the promise of Good Friday: we will be liberated from these crosses—the ones we hang on and the ones on which we hang one another. These crosses, at once symbols of the divisions between us and a symbol of the end to all divisions, promise that God will not abandon us in our suffering. God comes to us just like this, just as we are, but God does not leave us this way. This is the cross—evidence of our sin, and sign of God's love.