

April 18, 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod 14531 Old Olga Road Fort Myers, FL

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road S.E.
Ft Myers, FL 33905
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM
Church Office: (239) 694-3878
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E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor
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Pastor Karl's Monday Morning Message
live Monday's at 9:00 a.m. on
Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/BLCEFM/
Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

Good Friday Chief Service All

"When I survey the wondrous cross On which

the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride" (LSB 425:1). There can be no doubt— Christ had it all. He is the Prince of Glory. Our Savior also gave it all. Isaiah 53 tell us He was stricken, smitten, afflicted, pierced, crushed, punished, led like a Lamb to the slaughter, cut off from the land of the living, and assigned a grave with the wicked. And Jesus delivers it all. The absolution declares it. The font seals it. The table celebrates it. When these great truths strike our hearts, we cannot help but sing, "Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!" (LSB 425:4).

+ Service of the Word +

All enter the church in silence. (Please rise)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

PLet us pray.
Almighty God, graciously behold this Your

family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

L The Old Testament Reading for Good Friday is from Isaiah, chapters 52 and 53.

¹³Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you— His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,

and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so 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.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

²For 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.

- ³He 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.
- ⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
- ⁵But 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.

⁶All 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸By 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?

⁹And 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.

¹⁰Yet 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.

¹¹Out 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.

¹²Therefore 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.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

(Silence/Please rise)

PLet us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:5-11

L The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 2.

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

(Silence/Please rise)

PLet us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

+ The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ +

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

(Stanza 1)

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
 - With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
 - Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
 - Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
 - P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

John 18:1-11

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. 2Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So He asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go." 9This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: "Of those

whom You gave Me I have lost not one." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?"

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

(Stanza 1)

- 1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
 With grief and shame weighed down,
 Now scornfully surrounded
 - 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.

Jesus before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter John 18:12–27

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. ¹³First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was

high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, 16 but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. 17The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." 18 Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When He had

said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how You answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?" ²⁴Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the servants 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?" ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

(Stanza 2)

2 How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn! How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn! Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life; Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

Jesus Before Pilate

John 18:28-40

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" 30They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you." 31Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." 32This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests

have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷Then Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." ³⁸Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

(Stanza 3)

3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain; Mine, mine was the transgression,

But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.

Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion

John 19:1-16a

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. ³They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." 5So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" 6When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son

of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." 13So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. 14Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

(Stanza 4)

4 My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine. Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine. Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love; Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.

(Please rise)

The Crucifixion of Jesus

John 19:16b-24

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many 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.

²¹So 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.' " ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things,

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

(Stanza 5)

5 What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

Jesus' Mother and His Death *John 19:25–30*

²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. ²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. 30When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

(Stanza 6)

6 My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door; Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore! When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone, But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

John 19:31-42

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that

the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken." ³⁷And again another Scripture says, "They will look on Him whom they have pierced."

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

(Stanza 7)

7 Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die; Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.

(Silence/Please sit)

SERMON

"<u>All</u>"

. . . Pastor Karl

HYMN OF THE DAY

451 STRICKEN, SMITTEN, AND AFFLICTED

1 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.

- 2 Tell me, ye who 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.
- Nor suppose the evil great
 Here may view 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.
- 4 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.

(Please rise)

BIDDING PRAYER

P 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PAlmighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PO 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, especially 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PAlmighty 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PAlmighty 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PAlmighty 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PO 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PO 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.

- P Finally, let us pray for all things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:
- 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.

(Please rise)

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

(Please be seated)

+ Reproaches +

REPROACH

- P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.
- CHoly Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.
- P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed You with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.
- CHoly Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal,

allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

- P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.
- CHoly Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy. Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

CONCLUDING COLLECT

PLet us pray.

We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal

salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

(Please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

"Were You There?"

Duet: Cheryl Nelson and Doug Johnson

(All leave in silence)



Go and Serve the Lord

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Pianist: Cheryl Nelson

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Doug Grage, Paul Rugenstein

Reader: Mickie Naumann

Acolyte: Irie Hidalgo

SUNDAY 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service April 20 8-10 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service w/Holy

Communion

11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt