



Good Friday, Tenebrae Service
April 3, 2026

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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Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: **(239) 293-1489**

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

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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

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them [the soldiers], "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

*When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. **John 18:4-6 (NRSV)***

A Prayer: Almighty God, through Jesus' betrayal and death on the cross, you show us the power of your love. Through your suffering we are healed. Open our hearts to receive your love and saving grace. Amen.

Good Friday Theme: If anybody had a reason to live in a spite house, with large amounts of animosity and resentment, it was Job. But he prayed for his enemies. So did Jesus. And, by God's grace, so will we!

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

Tearing Down the Spite House

April 3, 2026

Invocation

P In the Name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SILENT PROCESSION

(Please follow the cross as it makes its way from the narthex to the chancel.)

+CALL TO WORSHIP+

(From selected verses in Psalm 51:1–12)

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

C **Create in me.**

P Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C **Create in me a clean heart.**

P For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

P Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and
renew a right spirit.

P Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and
uphold me with your free Spirit.

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and
renew a right spirit within me.

P O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will
declare your praise.

OPENING HYMN

956 CREATE IN ME

(sung twice)

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

P Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to
reverently behold the agony of your rejection,

the pain of your condemnation, and the horror of your crucifixion.

C Bring us to the places you walked and to the people you encountered on that Friday so long ago.

P Stay with us, Lord, as we witness your suffering and listen to your last words of love.

C As we approach Calvary let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against your holy commandments.

P Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from you in our thinking, speaking and doing.

C We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.

P We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.

C O God, we have tried to hide from you and from one another.

P We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us and the failed relationships that haunt us.

C We cannot plead the strength of our temptations or the frailty of our nature or place the blame on other people.

P We can only say, “For the sake of Jesus, God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

+ A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION +

P By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

422 ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE

1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures

Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let 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

READING

Job 42:7–9

The LORD Rebukes Job's Friends

⁷After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for

you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. ⁸Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” ⁹So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the LORD had told them, and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Ephesians 4:29–32

²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one

another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 7:17-29

P The conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount, according to St. Matthew, the 7th chapter.

¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

I Never Knew You

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do

many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Build Your House on the Rock

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

The Authority of Jesus

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

420 CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING

(Stanzas 1–2, 6–7)

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,

Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

SERMON

"TEARING DOWN THE SPITE HOUSE"

. . . Pastor Karl

The Eighth Part in the Series
"Job: Blessed be the Name of the Lord"
Tearing Down the Spite House
(Job 42:7–9)

OFFERING

HYMN *(Sung during offering)*

440 JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW

(Stanzas 1-2)

- 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.

- 2 Make me see Your great distress,
 Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
 And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
 Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
 Who with thorns had crowned You.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

(Please rise)

P Let us pray, for the holy church throughout the world.

P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.

C Amen.

P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

P Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new

birth as your children and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

P Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

P Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us pray for God's creation.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom,

and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us pray for those in need.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6: 9–13

C 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.

HYMN

440 JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW

(Stanzas 3-4)

3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
 Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
 And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
 Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
 Of Your crucifixion.

4 Grant that I Your passion view
 With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
 By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
 Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
 Suffered without measure?

Jesus Delivered to Be Crucified

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate 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.” 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 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.” ⁷ The Jews^[a] answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So 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?” ¹¹ Jesus 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.”

¹² From 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.” ¹³ So 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. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵ They 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.” ¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

(The First Candle is Extinguished)

The Crucifixion

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.”

(The Second Candle is Extinguished)

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic.^[d] But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴ so 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.”

(The Third Candle is Extinguished)

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵ but standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

(The Fourth Candle is Extinguished)

The Death of Jesus

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A 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. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(The Fifth Candle is Extinguished)

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹ Since 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. ³² So 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 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

(The Sixth Candle is Extinguished)

Jesus Is Buried

³⁸ After 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. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus^[e] by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds^[f] in weight. ⁴⁰ So 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. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

(The Seventh Candle is Extinguished)

HYMN

440 JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW

(Stanzas 5-6)

5 If my sins give me alarm
And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm;
Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won
By Your holy passion.

If for me He slays His Son,
God must have compassion!

6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

**THE REMOVAL OF THE CROSS AND
PASCHAL CANDLE
THE CLOSING OF THE BOOK
PASCHAL CANDLE RETURN REPRESENTING
THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

*(The congregation leaves in silence and minimal
light.)*

We look forward to seeing you again soon...

Easter Services

April 5th

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

8-10 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt



*SERVING IN THE LORD'S
HOUSE TODAY*

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Doug Grage

Reader: Paul Rugenstein