

# **GOOD FRIDAY**



Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said,  
“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”  
And having said this he breathed his last.

**APRIL 7, 2023**

**1 1:30AM AND 6:30PM**

Concordia Lutheran Church, Conover, NC

## **AS WE GATHER**

*We contemplate our Lord's Passion unfolding and ending as He submits Himself to the frailty of human flesh—even to the point of death. Today we hear and meditate on the words of Christ on the cross. At His final moment, He speaks the words "It is finished!"—simple words giving us unending hope. Praise be to Christ, who endured cross and torment—all of hell—for the forgiveness of our sins.*

## **PRELUDE**

*We stand.*

## **INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously be with us for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross that He might draw the whole world to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our forgiveness and life may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9  
Luke 23:39-43

*Each lesson concludes with:*

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** (6:30)

“Arise, My Soul, Arise”

Dan Forrest

**SERMON**

“The Moment of Truth”

Pastor Michael Geml

**HYMN** “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” 439

St. 1–3

### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

**P** Throughout these days of Lent, we have solemnly and reflectively followed Jesus’ mission for the salvation of the world. As we confront the culmination of Jesus’ Passion, we are compelled to face the harsh reality of our sin and the brokenness that it brings.

**C** **Lord God, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness. We have failed to follow Your will. We have refused to obey Your law. We are unable to fulfill Your plan. We are crushed under the weight of our sin, and the harsh reality of sin’s horror hangs heavy around us. It is sin that made the cross necessary. It is our sin that required the Savior’s death. Lord, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness.**

**P** We need a Savior. It was sin that made the cross necessary, but it was love that drove Jesus to the cross and held Him there. It was love for you. Because of His love and His perfect sacrifice, your sins have been covered. The debt has been paid. The burden has been removed. As you hear and experience that reality, you know that you have God’s grace. You are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**HYMN** “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” 439

St. 4–5

## **T SERVICE OF DARKNESS T**

### **THE FIRST WORD**

**Luke 23:32–34a**

**L** Jesus said, “Father, forgive them . . .”

**C O Lord, have mercy on us.**

### **PRAYER**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Prince of Peace. When You were mocked, You did not respond with harsh words. When You were tormented, You did not react in anger. When You were nailed to the cross, You prayed for the forgiveness of those who caused You to suffer. Give to us the virtues of gentleness, patience, and a forgiving spirit. Teach us also to love our enemies, and as children of the heavenly Father, to live in Your peace.

**C Amen.**

### **HYMN “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” 439**

St. 12, 15

### **THE SECOND WORD**

**Luke 23:35–43**

**L** Jesus said, “Today you will be with Me in paradise.”

**C O Lord, have mercy on us.**

### **PRAYER**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, in Your infinite mercy, You heard the plea of the dying thief on the cross next to You. We pray that You would open our hearts to welcome those who turn to You, and rejoice in their salvation. When our last hour comes, hold us firm in our faith, and bring us also to live with You in paradise.

**C Amen.**

### **HYMN**

**“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”**

**440**

St. 1–2, 4

**THE THIRD WORD**

**John 19:25–27**

ℒ Jesus said, “Here is your son... here is your mother.”

**C O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**PRAYER**

ℙ Lord Jesus Christ, while You suffered the agony of the cross, Your thoughts turned to the welfare of others. Your concern was for Your mother in her sorrow. We pray that You would regard with pity all parents who mourn the death of their children, and all parents who sorrow because their children have gotten into trouble or forsaken their faith. By the power of Your healing, we pray that parents and children know peace and that relationships be restored.

**C Amen.**

**HYMN**

**“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”**

**451**

St. 1, 3

**THE FOURTH WORD**

**Matthew 27:45–47**

ℒ Jesus said, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

**C O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**PRAYER**

ℙ Lord God, Father of all people and Creator of all that exists, You hold all people in Your power. We pray that You would not forsake the world that Your Son died to redeem. Even though we still see the influence of sin and evil all around us, assure us of Your continued presence in our midst. Help us to know Your love in our lives, so we can show Your presence to others.

**C Amen.**

450

St. 1-2

## THE FIFTH WORD

## John 19:28–29

⌚ Jesus said, “I thirst.”

**c O Lord, have mercy on us.**

## PRAYER

P Lord Jesus Christ, You endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place. We thirst for the healing that only You can provide. When we find ourselves suffering, give us peace and patience to endure the pain that comes our way. Bring to our minds all that You endured for us, and give us the strength to bear our burdens by the grace of Your holy example.

**C Amen.**

## HYMN

## “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

425

St. 1, 3-4

## THE SIXTH WORD

## John 19:29–30

⌞ Jesus said, “It is finished.”

**c O Lord, have mercy on us.**

## PRAYER

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your Father for the sake of us and the world. We pray that You would complete in us also everything that You intend for us, so that as children of the heavenly Father, we may live for His glory.

**C Amen.**

## HYMN

## “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

437

## **THE SEVENTH WORD**

**Luke 23:44–46; Matthew 27:51**

**℟** Jesus said, “Into Your hands I commit My spirit.”

**℣** O Lord, have mercy on us.

## **PRAYER**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, as You gave Your life on the cross in our place, You commended Your spirit into the loving hands of Your heavenly Father. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things.

When our last hour comes, grant us peace, that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the hands of our heavenly Father.

**℣** Amen.

## **HYMN**

**“Were You There”**

**456**

St. 1

*We stand.*

## **FINAL READING**

**John 19:38–42**

**℟** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**℣** Thanks be to God.

## **HYMN**

**“Were You There”**

**456**

St. 2-3

## **THE EXIT OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

## **CLOSING OF THE TOMB**

**LORD’S PRAYER** (*Spoken quietly*)

## THE CHRIST CANDLE IS RETURNED IN SILENCE

*Depart in silence*