



The Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Good Friday
March 29, 2024



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WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome! *Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or this has been your faith community for many years, we welcome you to worship.*

Today is Good Friday. Is it the day Jesus died on the cross.

Why did Jesus die on a cross? (A brief primer of the gospel)

Jesus came into the world to show us what God is like. Through Jesus, we know more about God's love and God's plan to make everything good and lovely. Jesus called God's plan, a kingdom. Because Jesus was talking about being a king in a new kingdom, the powerful people became upset. They killed Jesus because they thought he was disloyal to the way things were.

*We are sad that Jesus died, but we know it is not the end of the story. Jesus will rise again to new life. At the resurrection of Jesus, we know that death, including all the very hard and unfair things in our world, will not last forever. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, the coming of Jesus' kingdom began! But the story does not end there. Jesus promised that one day we will fully live into his kingdom with everything good and lovely when he comes back again. In Lutheran worship, we sum all of this up by the words we say during communion: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

As we journey together to the cross and to the tomb, notice the space around you. *What do you see? How do you think this space will look on Easter Sunday? The same or different? Why?*

"Five Sensory Good Friday Worship," created by Rev. Julie Peterson for Ascension Lutheran Church in 2022. Adapted by Rev. Kayla Hopgood. "Why did Jesus die on a cross?" written by Rev. Kayla Hopgood, inspired by "Have a Sad Easter, Kiddo" by Meredith Miller (2024).

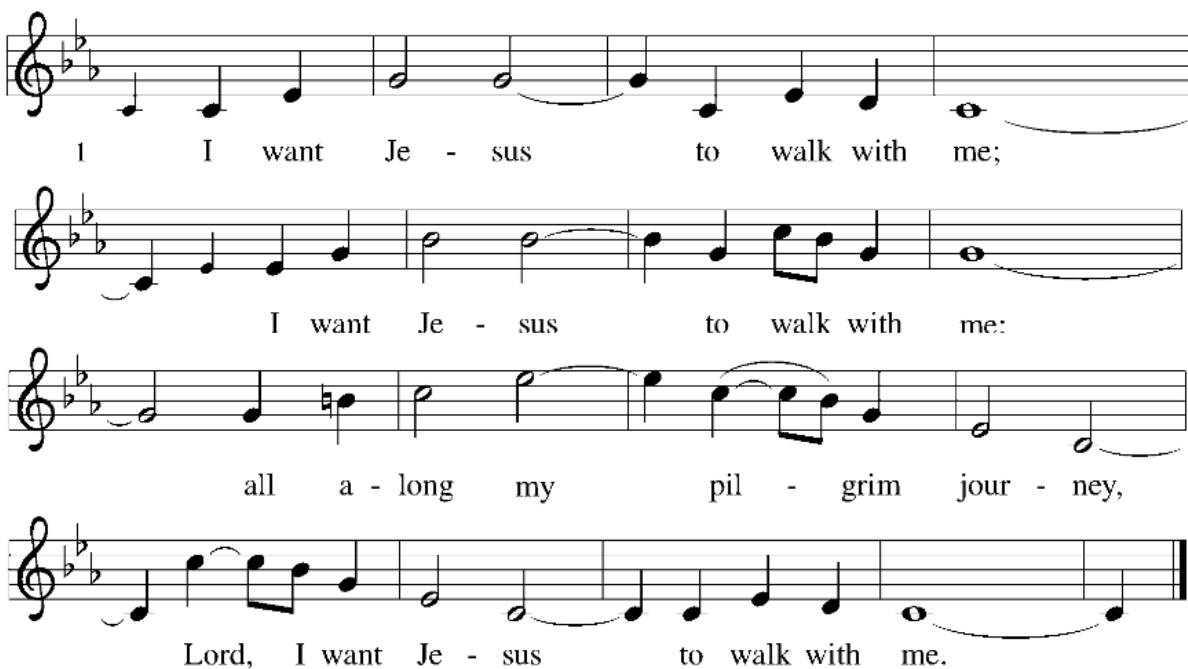
Cover Image : Hochhalter, Cara B.. *When They Crucified Jesus*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59271> [retrieved March 14, 2024]. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter.

GATHER

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

JOURNEYING HYMN | I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
I want Je - sus to walk with me:
all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

JESUS' LIFE

We start our journey recalling how Jesus lived.

STATION ONE | WATER

MATTHEW 3:16-17

Jesus was baptized and came up out of the water. Heaven opened, and he saw God's Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice spoke from heaven. The voice said, "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

REFLECTION

Water is an important symbol of our faith. We are baptized with water, just as Jesus was. Jesus' first miracle was transforming water into wine. Jesus calmed the waters during a storm. Jesus gave several important teachings around water. When we use or drink water, we can remember Jesus' life and teachings.

SENSE | Dip your hands in the baptismal font. Lightly splash the ministers and one another with the water.

PRAYER

Thank you, God for the gift of water. Amen.

STATION TWO | BREAD

JOHN 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

REFLECTION

Jesus talked about bread and used bread quite a bit in his teaching. In the special prayer he taught us, Jesus said we should ask God for bread every day. He also performed a miracle in which he fed more than five thousand people with just five loaves of bread. Before he died, Jesus said to his friends that eating bread together was one of the ways they could remember him.

SENSE | Eat a piece of bread.

PRAYER

Give us today our daily bread. Amen.

STATION THREE | TOWEL

JOHN 13:4-5

[Jesus] got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

REFLECTION

Jesus washed his friends' feet to care for them and show them love. At first, Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, didn't want Jesus to wash his feet, but later he agreed. Jesus used a towel to dry their feet. When we see a towel, we can remember the love and care Jesus showed to his friends.

SENSE | Wash your hands and dry them with the soft and fluffy towel.

PRAYER

God, help us to use our hands to serve you and other people. Amen.

STATION FOUR | FISH

LUKE 5:4-6

Jesus said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish." Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so I will." The fishermen did as Jesus told them. And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break.

REFLECTION

Some of Jesus' earliest followers were fishermen. They left their fishing nets to follow Jesus. Fish are a very important symbol throughout the story of Jesus. There are three different miracles involving fish; one of them is this story of the miraculous catch of fish. There is another special reason that the fish is a symbol of Jesus. The first letter of each of the words "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" in Greek, the original language of the New Testament, makes an acronym that means *fish!* For this reason, the earliest followers of Jesus used the sign of the fish to represent their faith in Jesus.

SENSE | Draw a fish symbol and place it in your bag.

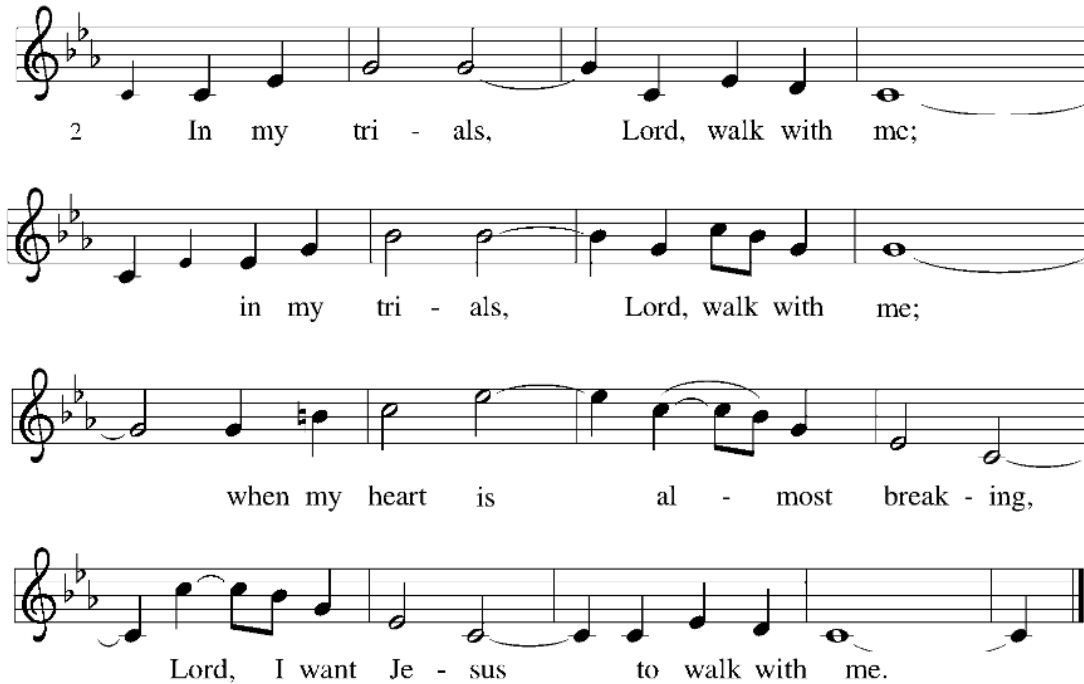
PRAYER

God, help us to follow you. Amen.

JESUS' DEATH

We recall his death, knowing that at the cross, new life begins.

JOURNEYING HYMN | I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME



2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;

in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;

when my heart is al - most break - ing,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

STATION FIVE | COIN

JOHN 18:1-2

When Jesus finished praying, he left with his followers. They went across the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden of olive trees. Jesus and his followers went there. Judas knew where this place was, because Jesus met there often with his followers. Judas was the one who turned against Jesus.

REFLECTION

Earlier in the Gospel of John, it was written that Judas was the keeper of the communal coin purse among the disciples, and that he was stealing from it. Judas was Jesus' friend, but he betrayed Jesus by turning against him.

SENSE | Take a coin and place it in your bag.

PRAYER

God, help us to see how we betray you and others when we think only of ourselves. Forgive us. Amen.

STATION 6 | NOTHING

JOHN 18:15-18, 25-27

Simon Peter and another one of Jesus' followers went along after Jesus. This follower knew the high priest. So he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. But Peter waited outside near the door. The follower who knew the high priest came back outside. He spoke to the girl at the door and brought Peter inside. The girl at the door said to Peter, "Aren't you also one of that man's followers?" Peter answered, "No, I am not!" It was cold, so the servants and guards had built a fire. They were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter was standing with them, warming himself. They said to him, "Aren't you one of that man's followers?" Peter denied it and said, "No, I am not." One of the servants of the high priest was there. The servant said, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" Again Peter said it wasn't true. Just then a rooster crowed.

REFLECTION

Even though Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Peter denied Jesus through his silence, by his actions, and with his words when he said he was not one of Jesus' disciples. Sometimes we deny Jesus too with our silence, our actions, or our words. When we keep God's love and mercy from others we are denying Jesus.

SENSE | Silence for reflection as nothing is passed around.

PRAYER

**God, forgive us for the times we have denied knowing you.
Amen.**

STATION 7 | THORNS & NAILS

MATTHEW 26-27 (paraphrase)

After Jesus' last supper with his disciples, they went out to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus stayed awake, praying alone. Suddenly, soldiers surrounded them and arrested Jesus. They accused him of trying to become a king. At his trial the Roman ruler, Pontius Pilate, asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "My kingdom is not of this world," answered Jesus. "Set him free," said Pilate. "This man has done nothing wrong." But some people were angry. "He called himself a king," they shouted. "Crucify him!" To please the crowd, Pilate ordered the soldiers to beat Jesus and then to kill him. They whipped him and made fun of him. Pretending he was a king, they put a crown of thorns on his head. They made him carry a heavy wooden cross to a hill outside the city. They nailed Jesus to

the cross. His mother, Mary, and several other women wept at his feet and stayed with him to the very end.

REFLECTION

Jesus is a different kind of king than we might expect. He was crowned with thorns and his throne was the cross. Jesus isn't king over one small part of the earth; he rules with God over all creation. As your king, Jesus gave everything to you, even his own life.

SENSE | Take a thorn and a nail and place them in your bag.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for showing your unending love to us. Amen.

STATION 8 | CANDLE

SENSE | Light a candle and look at the flame.

LUKE 23:44-46

It was about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. While the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

REFLECTION

During his life on earth, Jesus performed many miracles, taught many important things, and became friends with many people. When he died, his friends were so sad. In this scripture we hear that the sun's light failed, and the whole

earth was in shadow—all the light went away. Sometimes when we are sad after someone has died, it feels like we are in a shadow too. It can feel like all the light has gone from our life. I wonder if the disciples felt like that.

SENSE | Blow out the candle.

PRAYER

God, even when shadows cover the earth and the light is gone, help us to know that your Spirit is with us always. Amen.

STATION 9 | SPICES & LINEN CLOTH

JOHN 19:39

Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

REFLECTION

Nicodemus and Joseph prepared Jesus' body for burial with spices and linen cloth. Nicodemus brought the spices, which were a mixture of myrrh and aloes. Myrrh is one of the spices that the Magi brought to Jesus when he was just a small child. Everyone begins their life as a small baby, and everyone eventually dies. Most people live to be old before their death. When we smell myrrh, we can remember that everyone is born and lives and dies. Our spirit comes from God and returns to God, always.

SENSE | Pass around the cotton ball with myrrh oil and smell it. What does it smell like?

JOHN 19:40

Nicodemus and Joseph took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths according to the burial custom of the Jews.

REFLECTION

Nicodemus and Joseph took some time with Jesus' body after he died. Even though it can feel very hard, it is a holy gift to be near someone's body after they die. We might feel scared, but we can remember that death is normal and natural. When Jesus died, Joseph and Nicodemus respected his body and took good care of it. They did so by wrapping it with strips of linen cloth and spices. When they did this, they noticed that his body did not have any more signs of life. He was not breathing. His heart was not beating. He did not look like he did when he was alive. When someone dies, their body is present but their spirit is gone. When Nicodemus and Joseph spent time with Jesus' body and prepared it with spices, they were showing their love for Jesus.

SENSE | Write Jesus' name, or the name of someone you love who has died on the cloth and remember them. Place the cloth in your bag.

PRAYER

**When we miss someone who has died, give us comfort.
Amen.**

STATION 10 | ROCK

MATTHEW 27:59-60

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

REFLECTION

In Jesus' time, when people died their body was put inside a tomb. A tomb is like a dark cave. The rock was to prevent others from coming in and to make sure the tomb was a safe resting place for Jesus' body. I wonder if it was hard for Joseph to roll the rock in front of the tomb all by himself. Matthew's Gospel doesn't say he had help, but I wonder if he did. The rock was big and heavy.

SENSE | Hold the rock in your hand. Is it cold or warm? Rough or smooth? As you hold it, think about the large rock that covered Jesus' tomb and remember Jesus' life. Then place the rock in your bag.

PRAYER

God, we know this isn't the end. We know that in the darkness of the tomb, new life begins. Help us to not keep Jesus hidden away, but gladly share him with everyone. Amen.

JOURNEYING HYMN | I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sor - row,
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '3' indicating a triplet. The music is written in treble clef. The lyrics are: '3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;', 'when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;', 'when my head is bowed in sor - row,', and 'Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.' The score ends with a double bar line.

We end our service in the tension of death and new life. We feel the sadness of this day, but we wait in hope and joy for the Resurrection of our Lord which we celebrate together.

*Join us on Easter Sunday for a celebratory Easter egg hunt at 9:30AM and worship at 10AM, which includes a special children's message.
Thank you for your presence here today.*

HOLY WEEK AT ASCENSION

March 29 th 7pm	Good Friday Service (Tenebrae)
March 31 st 9:30am	Easter Egg Hunt
March 31 st 10am	Easter Sunday Worship

Connect with Us

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listserv. You will receive the weekly worship link, the bi-monthly newsletter, and occasional event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus, or email the office at officealc900@gmail.com



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The Church Office is open Wednesdays from
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.
Pastor Kayla is available by appointment Tuesday through Thursday.

Learn more about our community at ascensionlutheranchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown
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