

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
Good Friday
April 3, 2026 ~ 7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Opening Prayer

Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows of Jesus' suffering and death. We come with his friends, the men and women who have followed him in every place and generation, to hear once again this story of service and betrayal, of weakness and courage. We come to witness your love in action. Be with us, we pray, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

("When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Words by Isaac Watts, Music by Lowell Mason © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand:
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noon-tide heat and the burden of the day.
Upon the cross of Jesus my eyes at time can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess –
The wonders of His glorious love and my unworthiness.
I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face,
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

("Beneath the Cross of Jesus" words by Elizabeth C. Celpiane music by Frederick C. Maker Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

"Man of Sorrows!" What a Name

"Man of Sorrows!" What a name for the Son of God who came;
Ruined sinners to reclaim, hallelujah, what a Savior!
Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood, hallelujah, what a Savior!
Guilty, vile, and helpless we, spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full atonement can it be, hallelujah, what a Savior!
Lifted up was He to die; "It is finished" was His cry;
Now in heaven exalted high; hallelujah, what a Savior!

("Man of Sorrows – What a Name" text and tune Philipp P. Bliss, 1875, alt., CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Call to Confession: Isaiah 53:4-6

*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: Colossians 2:13-14

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;
Our Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour:
Turn not from His griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there adoring at His feet,
Mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete:
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

("Go to Dark Gethsemane" words by James Montgomery, music by Richard Redhead © Public Domain CCL1 #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred Head, now wounded with grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.
How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
How does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn!

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; assist me with Thy grace.

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 to Thee.

("O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" words by Paul Gerhardt, trans. James W. Alexander, alt. music by Hans Leo Hassler, harmonized by JS Bach © Public Domain CCL1 #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Scripture: Luke 23:18-28, 32-43

¹⁸ But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"—¹⁹ a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹ but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²² A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." ²³ But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

²⁶ And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸ But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Thief on the Cross - Monologue*

Ministry of Music: *Were You There*

Moment of Silent Reflection and Tolling of the Bell

Depart in Silence

*You are invited to
celebrate the resurrection
of our Risen Lord
with us on
Sunday, April 5
at 10:30 a.m.*

Pastors: Zac H, Jonathan U, Robert W
Music: Cheryl K, Kara H, Ken Q, Lisa Q

Nursery is available with a paging system for children under 3 years during worship service in the Education Building.
Worship services are also broadcast live in the basement and streamed online for anyone unable to worship in the sanctuary.
An assistive listening system is available in the sanctuary; to use this system, switch hearing aids to "T".
On the bulletin, bold font is a response by the congregation. You are invited to join if you feel comfortable.

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