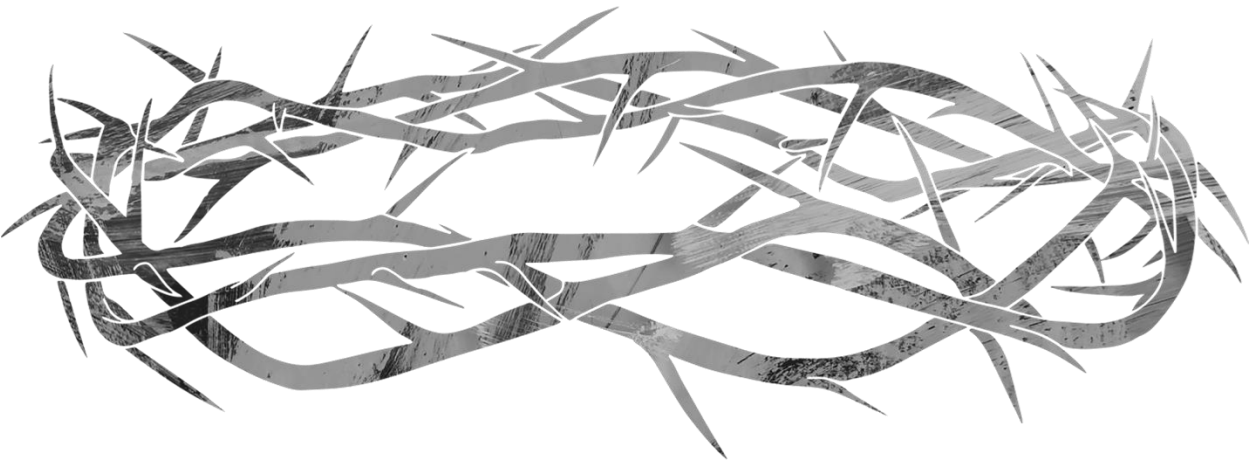


**MARCH 29, 2024 | FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD | THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS
LITURGY**



**CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**
CHRISTLAMESA.ORG

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Whether you're a long-time member of our congregation or joining us for the first time, we are deeply honored to have you here to reflect, meditate, and journey together through the Stations of the Cross.

The Stations of the Cross is a devotion adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus. Traditionally, there have been as many as fourteen stations. Of these, eight are based directly on events of scripture and are included in this liturgy. In the Stations of the Cross, we trace the steps of Christ's final hours, contemplating the immense love and sacrifice that He demonstrated for every one of us.

During the service, we will hear from God's Word, listen to dramatized reflections from various characters (note: these dramatizations are not included in the canon of scripture), sing, and reflect on how Good Friday shapes our faith and life.

Tonight, we gather not only as individuals but as a unified body, bound by our shared faith. As we prepare our hearts for the liturgy, we invite you to open your hearts to the weight of the journey that Jesus walked on this very day so many years ago.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

If you brought little ones with you today – we are overjoyed to have them here. While your worship might feel more like a wrestling match, a battle of wills, or a circus... your time, efforts, and distracted worship are worth it. Even the messiest and most frustrating days are not wasted. If your little one just needs a place to stretch their legs for a second, we have a **Family Room** in the back of the sanctuary.

CONNECTION CARD

Please let us know you're worshipping with us today. You can give us as little, or as much, info as you'd like. There is also a place on the connection card to submit a prayer request, make a comment, ask a question, or express interest in next steps. If you'd like to give an offering, you can do that, too! Scan the QR code or visit christlamesa.org/hello.



As you come into the Sanctuary, please keep silence as we observe the Solemn Passion of Christ. Silence your phone. Enter into reflective prayer, reflecting on your sin and shortcomings, and thanking Christ for His sacrifice. We suggest following each thought or prayer with the "Jesus Prayer": "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."

+ OPENING RITE +

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Pastor: All of us, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned, every one of us, to his own way,

All: and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Pastor: 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; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

HYMN | LSB 611 | CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

O my Savior, help afford by Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply, while I live and when I die.

HOMILY | AGNUS DEI

HYMN | LSB 550 | LAMB OF GOD

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.

Your Gift of love they crucified, they laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, and sacrificed the Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died, but You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

+ FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH +

READING | MATTHEW 27:15-24

¹⁵ Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

²¹ “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered. ²² “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” ²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

REFLECTION FROM PILATE’S WIFE

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Heavenly Father, like Pilate, we too can resist Your voice. Grant that, our desire for human respect, the fear of failure, and the clamor of the mob would never get in the way of listening to You.

All: Amen.

HYMN | LSB 439 | O DEAREST JESUS

O Dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken,
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?

+ SECOND STATION: JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS +

READING | MARK 15:15-20

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

REFLECTION FROM BARABBAS

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Heavenly Father, Barabbas was set free while the innocent One was led like a lamb to the slaughter. Grant that we would never take this sweet swap for granted, nor forget the willingness of Your Son to take a cross for us.

All: Amen.

SOLO FOR REFLECTION | RED LETTERS

+ THIRD STATION: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS +

READING | MARK 15:21

[As Jesus struggled to carry the cross]²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and [the soldiers] forced him to carry the cross.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

REFLECTION FROM SIMON OF CYRENE

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Heavenly Father, stir up Your spirit within us so that we would bear the cross of Your Son with courageous hearts, and help us to share the burden of others.

All: Amen.

CHORAL HYMN | O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

Verse 1: Choir

Verse 2: All

**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, vouchsafe to me thy grace.**

Verse 3: Choir

+ FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

READING | LUKE 23:27-31

²⁷ A large number of people followed [Jesus], including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then
“they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”

³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

REFLECTION FROM AN ANONYMOUS WOMAN

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Heavenly Father, give us tears of true sorrow for our sins and have mercy
on the sins of our generation.

All: Amen.

HYMN | LSB 456 | WERE YOU THERE

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? *(sung twice)*

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? *(sung twice)*

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

+ FIFTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS +

READING | MARK 15:22-24

²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

REFLECTION FROM A SOLDIER AT THE CROSS

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Heavenly Father, Your son chose the path that led to pain before glory. You Son chose the path of the cross. May that cross be planted in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to glory.

All: Amen.

SONG | ONCE AND FOR ALL

God, I give You all I can today,
these scattered ashes that I hid away,
I lay it all at Your feet.
From the corners of my deepest shame,
The empty places where I've worn Your name,
Show me the love, I say, I believe
Help me to lay it down. O Lord, I lay it down

O, let this be where I die;
My Lord, with Thee, crucified.
Be lifted high as my kingdoms fall,
Once and for all, once and for all.

There is victory in my Savior's loss,
In the crimson flowing from the cross.
Pour over me, pour over me.

O, let this be where I die;
My Lord, with Thee, crucified.
Be lifted high as my kingdoms fall,
Once and for all, once and for all.

Once and for all. Once and for all.

+ SIXTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS +

READING | LUKE 23:33-34

³³[They crucified Him at the place of the skull], along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

REFLECTION FROM DISMAS

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Heavenly Father, the thief Dismas gives up for us all. Help us to remember that your cross is a sign of forgiveness, even for hardened sinners, and lead us into paradise.

All: Amen.

HYMN | LSB 425 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.

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?

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!

+ SEVENTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS +

READING | MARK 15:33-37, 39

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

REFLECTION FROM THE CENTURION

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Heavenly Father, You opened the eyes of the centurion to see that Jesus was Your Son. Open our eyes. Open the eyes of others. Lead us to confess with our words and actions that Jesus is Lord.

All: Amen.

HYMN | HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son, To make a wretch His treasure

It was my sin that held Him there, Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished

+ EIGHTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB +

READING | MARK 15:42-46

⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

REFLECTION FROM JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Heavenly Father, on the edge of sadness when all seemed lost, You knew that death would not have the final word. Stir up our hearts to trust that You will not abandon us or let us see destruction.

All: Amen.

+ THE ADORATION OF THE CROSS AND CONCLUDING RITE +

SOLO FOR REFLECTION | BEHOLD (THEN SINGS MY SOUL)

RESPONSORY VERSES

Pastor: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the Salvation of the world.

All: O come, let us worship Him.

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CONCLUDING SONG | BEHOLD (THEN SINGS MY SOUL)

Behold His holy Son, the Lion and the Lamb given to us.
The Word became a man, that my soul should know its Savior.
Forsaken for the sake of all mankind, salvation in His blood;
Jesus Messiah, the Righteous, died for love.

Then sings my soul, Then sings my soul:
"How great Your love is! How great Your love is!"
(REPEAT)

Behold His holy Son, the Lion and the Lamb given to us.
The Word became a man, that my soul should know its Savior.
Forsaken for the sake of all mankind, salvation in His blood;
Jesus Messiah, the Righteous died for love.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you set Your passion, Cross, and death between Your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; peace and rest to the dying; unity to your holy Church; and, to us sinners, everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

You'll notice, like Maundy Thursday, there is no final blessing for Good Friday. This is because Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are one continuous service. We invite you to join us again on Easter Saturday at 5:00 pm or Easter Sunday at 8:00 or 10:30 am as we celebrate the next part of Jesus' story!

*Hymns and songs are used by permission: LSB Hymn license no. 110000410; CCLI license no. 254628.
To watch this service again, or share it with a friend, visit christlamesa.org/worship.*

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Travis Ferguson; **Acolyte:** Jordan Chisum; **Drama Readers:** Chris Small, Bill Roan, Steve Smith, Micah Valadez, Zachary Spicer, Stuart Gardner, Phil Rowland, and Ethan Sedino; **Music Leader:** Kathy Barkett and Sarah Kusel; **Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Eric Berg, Craig Barkett, and Dana Blackford; **Welcome Team:** Jill Kusel, Mark Kusel, and Kathy Coe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2024 EASTER OFFERING | HELP US PACK 100,000 MEALS – Easter is just around the corner... but millions around the world have difficulty thinking about the joys of Easter because their bellies are growling from hunger. Help us change that this Easter. Our goal is to pack 100,000 meals - and we need your help to do it. Make a difference. Donate to the Easter Offering today by going to **christlamesa.org/easter**.



THE 2024 MEXICO HOUSEBUILD | SATURDAYS IN APRIL AND MAY – As a church, we partner with AMOR Ministries to build a home for one family in Mexico. Join us on April 13, 27, May 11, and 18 as we help our neighbors to the South! Anyone over 8 years old with a valid passport may come to serve on a build Saturday. Friends and family are welcome to join. Scan the QR code to sign-up.



CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL - Named Premier Parent Choice Award Winner for 2022-2023, our Christ-centered and accredited School and Preschool have been committed to academic excellence since 1958. You get tradition and legacy with a bright and exciting future with Christ Lutheran. If you are interested in enrollment, visit **lutheranschool.org** or call **(619) 462-5211, ext. 3**, and schedule a tour today!



PICKLEBALL AT CHRIST LUTHERAN – Join us in the Gym on Mondays from 7-9 pm for an amazing night of Pickleball! Equipment is provided, but you can also bring your own. Church and school family, friends, neighbors and community members are welcome. Questions? Contact Matt Rochester at **mattrochie7@gmail.com**. This provides a great opportunity to connect your friends with Christ Lutheran in a non-threatening atmosphere.



CONNECTING STUDENTS TO JESUS AND OTHER STUDENTS - Youth Ministry at Christ Lutheran is about growing relationships between students and fun, faith-filled adults. This is done by gathering consistently through worship opportunities, Bible studies, games, fun activities, mission trips, servant events, leadership development, and more. Each month there is a way to stay connected and grow in faith. Find out more at **christlamesa.org/youth**.

To see more upcoming events, visit christlamesa.org/calendar.