



# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Warda, Texas | Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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THE LORD  
WILL PROVIDE

1873-2025

152 Years of God's Grace

*Sharing with Everyone the Good News of Salvation Through Jesus Christ!*

Divine Service with  
Holy Communion  
9:00am

Bible Class and  
Sunday School  
10:15 a.m.

# GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE VESPERS

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FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠  
(In the Name of Jesus)

## WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS

We are truly blessed to welcome you to our church tonight. We pray that your Lenten journey has been a fruitful time of devotion to Christ that has brought you here to reflect upon the cross of Christ. We would especially like to welcome all guests and visitors. Our pastor would like to meet you and introduce you to our church. Finally, please feel welcome to join us tomorrow evening and on Sunday morning to celebrate Christ's victory over the grave!

## A NOTE ON TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Around 9am (the third hour), Jesus was nailed to the cross and lifted high, suffering for the sins of humanity. Later in the evening, His lifeless body was placed into a borrowed tomb. Tonight's service reflects upon this sacrifice; this day in which the sun refused to shine; this day when the only-begotten Son of God slipped from life unto death. This is not a "funeral" for Jesus, but a reflection upon His saving death.

The pastor is vested in black, reflecting the solemn nature of the day and symbolizing the darkness upon the whole earth from noon to 3pm (the sixth to ninth hour).

The service of Vespers (Latin for "evening") is a service giving thanks to God for the day, now ending. Especially on this, Good Friday, do we give thanks to God who sent Jesus to die for our sins. Vespers consists of opening versicles from Psalm 51, "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise!"

Psalm 31 is read in entirety by the congregation. This Psalm offers hope to the Christian, even as our eyes are fixed upon the dying Christ. The service continues with the passion account as recorded in the four Holy Gospels. After the sermon, the Congregation joins in the "Bidding Prayer," a series of prayers that are each introduced with a bid, or an invitation to pray, followed by a moment of silence and a prayer by the pastor.

A single candle is removed from the Sanctuary signifying Jesus' death. After the account of the sealing of the tomb is read, a loud sound is heard, the *Strepitus*, symbolizing the sealing of Jesus' tomb. After a brief moment of silence, the light returns, as a testament that Christ has overcome death and the grave.

At the conclusion of the service, all are asked to leave in silence. Offerings may be left in the plate at the rear of the nave. Tonight's offering is designated for Missions.

## ✠ TENEBRAE VESPERS ✠

*All enter in silence.*

*Stand.*

### OPENING VERSICLES

**P** O Lord, open Thou my lips,

**C** and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

### ✠ PSALMODY ✠

#### PSALM 31

Pastor: <sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me!

**All:** <sup>2</sup>**Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily!**

Pastor: Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me!

Women: <sup>3</sup>For you are my rock and my fortress;  
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

Men: <sup>4</sup>you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.

Pastor: <sup>5</sup>Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

**All:** <sup>6</sup>**I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,  
but I trust in the LORD.**

Pastor: <sup>7</sup>I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,  
because you have seen my affliction;  
you have known the distress of my soul,

**All:** <sup>8</sup>**and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;  
you have set my feet in a broad place.**

Pastor: <sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye is wasted from grief;  
my soul and my body also.

Men: <sup>10</sup>For my life is spent with sorrow,  
and my years with sighing;

Women: my strength fails because of my iniquity,  
and my bones waste away.

Pastor: <sup>11</sup>Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,  
especially to my neighbors,  
and an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.

Women: <sup>12</sup>I have been forgotten like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.

Men: <sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many—  
terror on every side!—

Pastor: as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.

**All: <sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, O LORD;  
I say, “You are my God.”**

**<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors**

Pastor: <sup>16</sup>Make your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love!

Women: <sup>17</sup>O LORD, let me not be put to shame,  
for I call upon you;  
let the wicked be put to shame;  
let them go silently to Sheol.

Men: <sup>18</sup>Let the lying lips be mute,  
which speak insolently against the righteous  
in pride and contempt.

Pastor: <sup>19</sup>Oh, how abundant is your goodness,  
which you have stored up for those who fear you  
and worked for those who take refuge in you,  
in the sight of the children of mankind!

Women: <sup>20</sup>In the cover of your presence you hide them  
from the plots of men;

Men: you store them in your shelter  
from the strife of tongues.

Pastor: <sup>21</sup>Blessèd be the LORD,  
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me  
when I was in a besieged city.

<sup>22</sup>I had said in my alarm,  
“I am cut off from your sight.”

But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy  
when I cried to you for help.

**All:**     <sup>23</sup>Love the LORD, all you his saints!  
          The LORD preserves the faithful  
          but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.  
          <sup>24</sup>Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
          all you who wait for the LORD!

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy Spirit.  
**P** 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.

*Sit.*

### PASSION HYMN

*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

*Hymn 140, sts. 1, 4, 6*

## ✠ THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

*The readings this evening reflect upon the "Seven Words" Jesus spoke from the cross.*

*Father, forgive them.*

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### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

### PASSION READING

*Luke 23:32-34*

- P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.  
**C** O come, let us worship Him.

### HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*

*Hymn 153*

*The first candle is extinguished.*

*Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.*

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### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 25:6-9*

### PASSION READING

*Luke 23:35-43*

- P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.  
**C** O come, let us worship Him.

### HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Throned Upon the Awe-full Tree*

*Hymn 174*

*The second candle is extinguished.*

*Woman, behold your son! Behold, your mother!*

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 49:13-16a*

PASSION READING

*John 19: 25-27*

**P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

**C** **O** come, let us worship Him.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

*Hymn 172, sts. 1-5*

*The third candle is extinguished.*

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Psalms 139:1-12*

PASSION READING

*Matthew 27:45-47*

**P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

**C** **O** come, let us worship Him.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

*Hymn 172, sts. 6-10*

*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

*I thirst.*

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Psalms 42:1-5*

PASSION READING

*John 19:28-29*

**P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

**C** **O** come, let us worship Him.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Upon the Cross Extended*

*Hymn 171, sts. 1-6*

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

*It is Finished.*

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 43:11-21*

PASSION READING

*John 19:30a*

**P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

**C** **O** come, let us worship Him.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Upon the Cross Extended*

*Hymn 171, sts. 7-12*

*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

*Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Psalm 31:1-8*

PASSION READING

*Luke 23:44-49*

**P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

**C** O come, let us worship Him.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*O Darkest Woe*

LSB 448



1 O dark - est woe! Ye tears, forth flow! Has  
2 O sor - row dread! Our God is dead, Up -  
3 O child of woe: Who struck the blow That  
4 Thy Bride - groom dead! God's Lamb has bled Up -



earth so sad a won - der? God the Fa - ther's  
on the cross ex - tend - ed. There His love en -  
killed our gra - cious Mas - ter? "It was I," thy  
on thy sin for - ev - er, Pour - ing out His



on - ly Son Now is bur - ied yon - der.  
liv - ened us As His life was end - ed.  
con - science cries, "I have wrought dis - as - ter!"  
sin - less self In this vast en - deav - or.

5 Such innocence!  
His countenance  
A fount of faith undying!  
Worlds on worlds cannot contain  
Grief at Him here lying.

6 O Virgin's Son,  
What Thou hast won  
Is far beyond all telling:  
How our God, detested, died,  
Hell and devil felling.

7 O Jesus Christ,  
Who sacrificed  
Thy life for lifeless mortals:  
Be my life in death and bring  
Me to heaven's portals!

*The seventh candle is extinguished.*

SERMON

*The LORD Will Provide*

## BIDDING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God:
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:
- P** Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:
- P** O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially Joe, our President; the Congress of the United States; Greg, our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**



- A** Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:
- P** O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- A** Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

**P** O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**A** Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

**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.**

*Sit.*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** - *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*The final candle is removed from the Sanctuary.*

### *The Silence*

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**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Genesis 2:1-3*

**PASSION READING**

*Mark 15:42-47*

**P** But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** **Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*Were You There?*

*LSB 456, vs. 1-3*

<sup>1</sup>Were you there when they crucified my Lord?    <sup>2</sup>Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they crucified my  
Lord? Oh . . .

Were you there when they nailed Him to  
the tree? Oh . . .

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
tremble, tremble.

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?

<sup>3</sup>Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

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

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

*The Strepitus is heard; a loud sound, signifying the sealing of Jesus' tomb.*

*After a time of silence, signifying Jesus' rest in the tomb, the candle returns as a reminder that Christ has overcome the grave.*

## **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*Were You There?*

LSB 456, vs. 4

*The final verse is sung as a solo, a reminder of Mary Magdalene, the first witness of the Resurrection.*

*<sup>4</sup>Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?  
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?  
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?*

*All may exit in silence or stay for silent prayer.*

## **A NOTE REGARDING UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

*Tomorrow is Holy Saturday. You are invited to join us at Holy Cross for our Easter Vigil Service at 7:00pm. The Easter Vigil is a unique service that serves to “countdown” to the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we gather to keep vigil (wait), we are led through a series of short services: the Service of Light, the Service of Readings, the Service of Baptismal Remembrance, the Service of Prayer, the Service of the Word, and finally, the Service of the Sacrament.*

*Beginning the celebration of Easter on Saturday evening may seem unusual. It is, however, completely consistent with the Biblical (and modern Jewish) accounting of time, in which a new day begins at sundown. Our Vigil (Latin for “waiting”) service won't last hours and hours into the night; it will be approximately 90 minutes. Consider joining us to celebrate our Lord's victory over death!*

*Additionally, on Sunday we invite you to join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at our Sunrise Matins Service at 6:30am; Easter Breakfast will be served by our Youth group at 7:30am; Easter Divine Service with Holy Communion will take place at 9:00am; and our Easter Egg Hunt will conclude the activities for the day. May our Lord's Passion and Resurrection fill you with faith in Christ and hope unto everlasting life! Amen.*



*Soli Deo Gloria*  
(To God alone be Glory)