

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

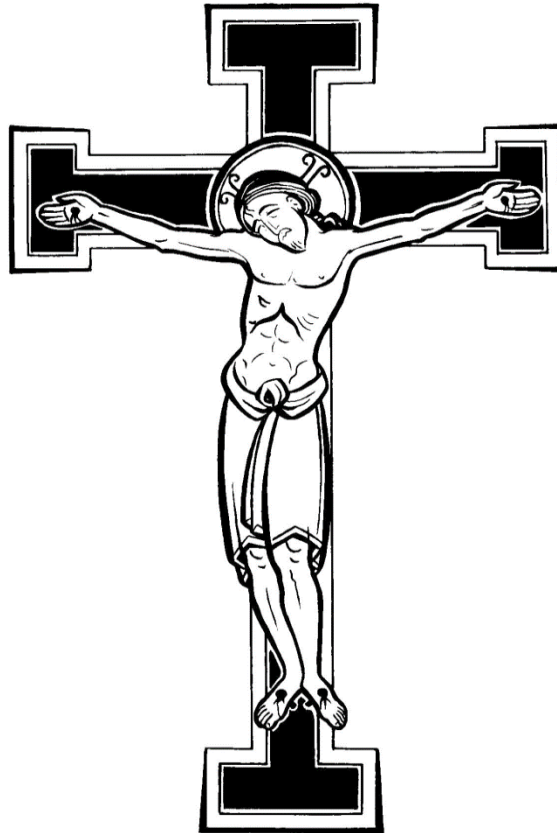
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

April 3, 2026

12:00 PM- 3 PM

ECUMENICAL COMMEMORATION of GOOD FRIDAY



Today, from Noon to 3 pm, the Church gathers to meditate upon the seven last words of Jesus as recorded in the gospels. This liturgy (sometimes called, Tre Ore -- the "Three Hours' Agony" or "The Great Three Hours") creates a meditative and devotional space for Christians to consider the reality of sin and its consequences -- as well as the unconditional love of God shown in the life and words of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We gather ecumenically, as the people of God divided by tradition, history, and practice but united by our baptism into Christ.

PRELUDE

String Quartet
Chris Hake & Anthony Chau, *violin*
Molly Moriarty, *viola*
Paul Ledwon, *cello*

GATHERING

(rise in body or spirit)

INVOCATION

THE LITANY *(responsively)*

- L** Lord, have mercy.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** Christ, have mercy.
- C** Christ, have mercy.
- L** Lord, have mercy.
- L** Lord, have mercy.

Response: **C** Hear us, O God.

- L** Be gracious to us **R**
- L** Deliver your people **R**
- L** You loved us before the world was made **R**
- L** You rescued the people of your promise **R**
- L** You spoke through your prophets **R**
- L** You gave your only Son for the life of the world **R**

Response: **C** Great is your love.

- L** For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven **R**
- L** and was born of the virgin Mary **R**
- L** who by his cross and suffering redeemed the world **R**
- L** and has washed us from our sins **R**
- L** who on the third day rose from the dead **R**
- L** and has given us the victory **R**
- L** who ascended on high **R**
- L** and intercedes for us at the right hand of God **R**

Response: **C** Thanks be to God.

- L** For the gift of the Holy Spirit **R**
- L** For the one holy catholic and apostolic church **R**

- Ⓐ For the great cloud of witnesses into which we are baptized **R**
- Ⓐ For all holy men and women, our mothers and fathers in faith **R**
- Ⓐ For the noble band of the prophets **R**
- Ⓐ For the glorious company of the apostles **R**
- Ⓐ For the white-robed army of martyrs **R**
- Ⓐ For cherubim and seraphim, Michael and the holy angels **R**

Response: **Ⓒ Hear us, O God.**

- Ⓐ Be gracious to us **R**
- Ⓐ Deliver your people **R**
- Ⓐ Give new life to your servants by the grace of baptism **R**
- Ⓐ Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross **R**
- Ⓐ Clothe us in compassion and love **R**
- Ⓐ Bring us with all your saints to the river of life **R**

- Ⓐ Lord, have mercy.
- Ⓒ Lord, have mercy.**
- Ⓐ Christ, have mercy.
- Ⓒ Christ, have mercy.**
- Ⓐ Lord, have mercy.
- Ⓒ Lord, have mercy.**

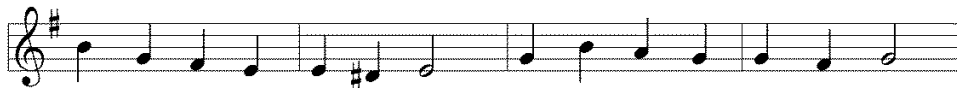
WORD

FIRST WORD

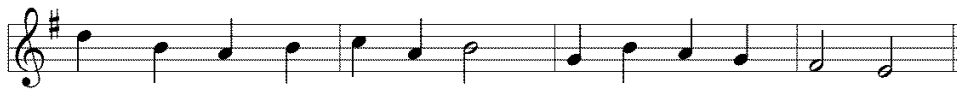
Father, Forgive Them, For They Know Not what They Do

HYMN

Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes



1 Je - sus, in thy dy - ing woes, e - ven while thy life - blood flows,
 2 Sav - ior, for our par - don sue when our sins thy pangs re - new,
 3 Oh, may we, who mer - cy need, be like thee in heart and deed,



crav - ing par - don for thy foes:
 for we know not what we do: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
 when with wrong our spir - its bleed:

Text: Thomas B. Pollock, 1836-1896
 Music: ACK, VÄDAR DOCK LIVET HÄR. Koralpsalmboken, Stockholm, 1697

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Luke 23:32-38

(sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Via Dolorosa

Borop and Sprague/arr. Fettke

MEDITATION

Prof. Thomas Kelly

Professor of Theology and Director of the Christian Spirituality Program, Creighton University

PRAYER

☩ Heavenly Father, we gather this Good Friday at the foot of the Cross. Help us to listen attentively to the Words of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We need help with forgiveness. May we know your forgiveness more fully; may we grow in practicing forgiveness with those who share life with us. Touch us with Your Spirit, that we may be both ‘forgiven’ and ‘forgiving.’ In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

(Silent prayer and reflection)

SECOND WORD

Today, You Will Be with Me In Paradise

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN

Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes

**4 Jesus, pitying the sighs
of the thief, who near thee dies,
promising him paradise:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

**5 May we in our guilt and shame
still thy love and mercy claim,
calling humbly on thy name:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

**6 May our hearts to thee incline,
looking from our cross to thine.
Cheer our souls with hope divine:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

Text: Thomas B. Pollock, 1836-1896
Music: ACK, VÄDAR DOCK LIVET HÄR. Koralpsalmboken, Stockholm, 1697

LITANY

- ℒ** Our hearts are heavy, as we worship our crucified Lord.
- ☩** He died for our greed.
- ℒ** We watch with horror, seeing him hang on the cross.

- C** He died for our neglect.
- L** We see the evil in the world around him.
- C** He died for our hatred.
- L** We, too, have denied our Lord.
- C** He died for our lies.
- L** We, too, have betrayed our Lord.
- C** Forgive us Lord, for our sins are many. Amen.

SECOND READING

Luke 23:39-43

(sit)
MUSICAL OFFERING *Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love* Faure/arr. Kane and Petker

MEDITATION The Rev. Carolyn Grice
 Pastor, New Life Presbyterian Church

PRAYER

C O Lord, our God, we marvel at how Your love reached out to a dying thief. His life was changed and restored in that encounter. May your transforming and renewing power be at work in our hearts and lives as well. Draw us to You, let us be warmed by Your love, point our lives toward paradise. We earnestly pray, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

(Silent prayer and reflection)

THIRD WORD

Woman, Behold Your Son! Behold, Your Mother!

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN *Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes*

7 Jesus, loving to the end
 her whose heart thy sorrows rend,
 and thy dearest human friend:
 hear us, holy Jesus.

8 May we in thy sorrows share,
 for thy sake all peril dare,
 and enjoy thy tender care:
 hear us, holy Jesus.

9 May we all thy loved ones be,
 all one holy family,
 loving for the love of thee:
 hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Thomas B. Pollock, 1836-1896
 Music: ACK, VÄDAR DOCK LIVET HÄR. Koralpsalmboken, Stockholm, 1697

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

☞ Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, the faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life. Amen.

THIRD READING

John 19:23-27

(sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Requiem

Gilkysen/arr. Johnson

MEDITATION

The Rev. Andrew Mahoney
Pastor, First Baptist Church

PRAYER

☞ Heavenly Father, Jesus illustrated how life is to be lived. It is to be filled with love and caring. As we ponder Your love, may we know it's embrace. May there be a 'quality' in our love—a quality that is marked by 'care for another'—in home, family, church, community and world. Increase our love, give feet and hands and hearts to our love—in the Name of Jesus, who loves us all. Amen.

(Silent prayer and reflection)

FOURTH WORD

My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN

Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes

10 Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
with our evil left alone,
while no light from heav'n is shown:
hear us, holy Jesus.

11 When we seem in vain to pray
and our hope seems far away,
in the darkness be our stay:
hear us, holy Jesus.

12 Though no Father seem to hear,
though no light our spirits cheer,
may we know that God is near:
hear us, holy Jesus.

RESPONSIVE READING

- ℒ For our sakes, Christ became obedient unto death,
- ☑ **Even death on a cross.**
- ℒ By one man's obedience,
- ☑ **Many will be made righteous.**
- ℒ I have been crucified with Christ;
- ☑ **It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.**
- ℒ And the life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God,
- ☑ **Who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

FOURTH READING

Mark 15:33-36

(sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

And This is Love

English/arr. Purifoy

MEDITATION

The Rev. Josh Janzen
Pastor, First Mennonite Church, Beatrice

PRAYER

- ☑ **Gracious Savior, on the Cross You were forsaken because You were bearing the sins of the whole world. You took our place, and, consequently, we will never have to experience being forsaken by God. We may walk confidently in the assurance that we are never alone – that you are by our side. We are grateful for your abiding presence. Amen.**

(Silent prayer and reflection)

FIFTH WORD

I Thirst

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN

Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes

- | | |
|--|--|
| 13 Jesus, in thy thirst and pain,
while thy wounds thy lifeblood drain,
thirsting more our love to gain:
hear us, holy Jesus. | 14 Thirst for us in mercy still;
all thy holy work fulfill;
satisfy thy loving will;
hear us, holy Jesus. |
| 15 May we thirst thy love to know;
lead us in our sin and woe
where the healing waters flow;
hear us, holy Jesus. | |

RESPONSIVE READING

- L** O death, where is thy victory?
C **O death, where is thy sting?**
L The sting of death is sin,
C **and the power of sin is the law.**
L But thanks be to God,
C **who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

FIFTH READING

John 19:28-29

(sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

He Was Wounded

Craig Courtney

MEDITATION

The Rev. Juliet Hemphill
Pastor, Bethel AME Church

PRAYER

- C** **O Lord, Our Lord, You have experienced thirst and hunger, pain and death, for us. Keep us, we pray, sensitive to the costly sacrifice You have made. May we think deeply about it, never treat it lightly, and resolve to live committedly because of it. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

(Silent prayer and reflection)

SIXTH WORD

It Is Finished

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN

Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes

**16 Jesus, all our ransom paid,
all thy Father's will obeyed;
by thy suff'ring perfect made:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

**17 Save us in our soul's distress;
be our help to cheer and bless,
while we grow in holiness:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

**18 Brighten all our heav'nward way
with an ever holier ray
till we pass to perfect day:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

Text: Thomas B. Pollock, 1836-1896
Music: ACK, VÄDAR DOCK LIVET HÄR. Koralpsalmboken, Stockholm, 1697

LITANY

- ℣ By your cross and passion,
☩ **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- ℣ By your death and resurrection,
☩ **Good Lord, renew us.**
- ℣ By your love outpoured,
☩ **Good Lord, embrace us.**
- ℣ By your holy sacrifice.
☩ **Good Lord, free us.**
- ℣ Have mercy upon us, your people.
☩ **Good Lord, hear us, we pray. Amen.**

SIXTH READING

John 19:30

(sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

He Chose to Die

Pattie Drennan

MEDITATION

The Rev. Andrew Nelson

Director of Campus Ministry and Community Service, Morningside University, Sioux City, Iowa

PRAYER

- ☩ **O Savior, Precious Savior, we rejoice and take strength in Your victory over sin, and death, and the power of the devil. Thanks be to God that Your mission, for our salvation, has been accomplished! We pray in the Name of our victorious Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(Silent prayer and reflection)

SEVENTH WORD

Father, into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN

Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes

**19 Jesus, all thy labor vast,
all thy woe and conflict past;
yielding up thy soul at last:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

**20 When the death shades round us low'r,
guard us from the tempter's pow'r,
keep us in that trial hour:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

**21 May thy life and death supply
grace to live and grace to die,
grace to reach the home on high:
hear us, holy Jesus.**

Text: Thomas B. Pollock, 1836-1896

Music: ACK. VÄDAR DOCK LIVET HÄR. Koralspsalmboken. Stockholm. 1697

LITANY

- ℣ Dear Jesus, you have died that we might live.
- ☩ **Humbly we thank you.**
- ℣ You have suffered that we might be forgiven.
- ☩ **Gratefully we praise you.**
- ℣ You will rise again that we might have eternal life.
- ☩ **Expectantly we wait for you.**
- ℣ Make us strong in our faith and secure in our hope.
- ☩ **That we might die to rise again with you. Amen.**

SEVENTH READING

Luke 23:44-49

(sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Even the Heavens Are Weeping

Joseph Martin

MEDITATION

The Rev. Keith Winton
Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

(Silent prayer and reflection)

SENDING

(rise in body or spirit)

NUNC DIMITTIS

- ☩ **Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;
Your Word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared
In the sight of every people.
A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

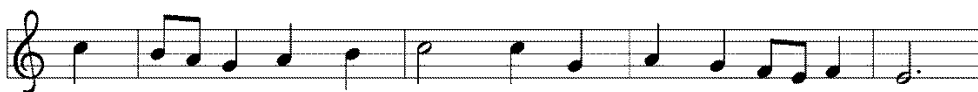
- ☩ **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**



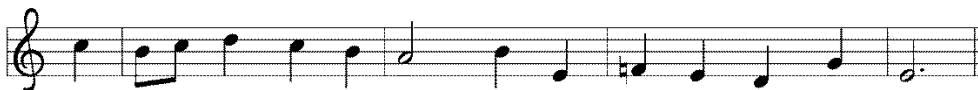
1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

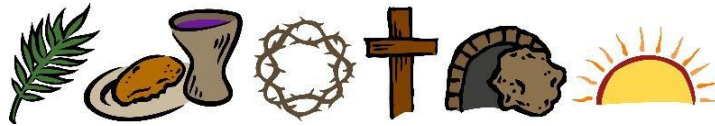
Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

POSTLUDE

String Quartet
 Chris Hake & Anthony Chau, *violin*
 Molly Moriarty, *viola*
 Paul Ledwon, *cello*



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Holy Saturday, April 4

10 PM Easter Vigil (Fire, Word, Water, Eucharist) (There will be no 5:00 PM Saturday service)

Easter Sunday, April 5

7:30 AM Festival of the Resurrection in the Link
8 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast & Bake Sale
9 & 11:00 AM Festival of the Resurrection
10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt in the Green Space after the 9 AM service

