

Family of Christ Lutheran Church
Good Friday Worship
April 3, 2026

Introduction to the Service

The "Service of The Nails" is a series of readings, responses, and silent reflection and prayer designed to help us enter more deeply into the meaning of Good Friday. You are invited to hold the nail you received with your bulletin throughout the service.

Call to Worship Isaiah 52:13-15

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him --so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals-- so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, **your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus**

Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 666 What Wondrous Love Is This

The Nails of The Cross

The Nail of Pride: Mark 12:38-40

As he taught, Jesus said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

First candle is extinguished

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

O God - help us consider our own pride and where it leads.

O God - do not let us deceive ourselves. Our pride hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our pride hurts you.

Sung Response (from ELW 353)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.

The Nail of Betrayal: Matthew 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.”^[a] Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Second candle is extinguished

Sung Response (from ELW 353)

Where you there when he walked the road alone?

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

O God - help us consider how we betray others, how we abandon them in their time of need, how we think of ourselves first.

O God - do not let us deceive ourselves. Our acts of betrayal hurt us and create walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our betrayal hurts you.

The Nail of Envy: Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. ²¹ And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"^[a] They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

²⁴When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Third candle is extinguished

Sung Response (from ELW 353)

Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

O God - help us consider how we envy others, how we desire more than we receive and seek to influence and rule over others.

O God - do not let us deceive ourselves. Our envy hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our envy hurts you.

The Nail of Indecision: Matthew 27:20-24

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to

ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”^[a] All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³ Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood;^[b] see to it yourselves.”

Fourth candle is extinguished

Sung Response (from ELW 353)

Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?

Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

O God - help us consider how we waver, how we seek to avoid responsibility and to blame others for our actions.

O God - do not let us deceive ourselves. Our indecision hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our indecision hurts you.

The Nail of Cruelty: Matthew 27:27-31, 39-42

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

39 Those who passed by derided[a] him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself.[b] He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.

Fifth candle is extinguished

Sung Response (from ELW 353)

Were you there when they mocked the son of God?

Were you there when they mocked the son of God?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they mocked the son of God?.

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

O God - help us consider how we are cruel to others, how we malign and slander others and add to the evil that comes upon them.

O God - do not let us deceive ourselves. Our cruelty hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our cruelty hurts you.

The Nail of Hatred: Luke 6:22,32-35

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you^[a] on account of the Son of Man.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.^[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Sixth candle is extinguished

Sung Response (from ELW 353)

Were you there when the sun refused shine?

Were you there when the sun refused shine?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

O God - help us consider how we show hate to others, how we fail to care for others and make distinctions among them.

O God - do not let us deceive ourselves. Our hatred hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

O God, we know too that our hatred hurts you.

THE RESPONSE

Act of 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.

He was wounded for our transgressions, and he was bruised for our iniquities. Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole.

All we like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

As the music to "Were You There" is played the congregation

is invited to come forward with their nail and drive it part way into the cross placed in front of the altar.

Responsive Reading: The Promise Of Mercy Isaiah 53:7-13

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

Final candle is extinguished

They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, God's servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore, I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

ANTHEM: My Song Is Love Unknown

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Lord God, you have given us everything.

You have not held anything back, not even your only begotten son.

With humble hearts we thank you.

In new hope we offer to you and for the work of salvation our every gift and our very selves.

Be pleased, O God, in the name of Jesus, to accept all that we offer at this time. Look upon the intentions of our hearts. Hear our prayers and in your love answer.

(Silence for prayer)

We ask all these things through him who taught us to pray to you, saying:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but

deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours. Now and forever. Amen.

Closing hymn: ELW 349 Ah, Holy Jesus

You may remain to pray or depart in silence.