

L: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those

unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Sending

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Song: "When I Survey" #803

The congregation departs in silence

The Passion of Our Lord



Good Friday April 3, 2026

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STEINBACH INC.

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Good Friday

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- John 3:16

*The Assembly Gathers in silence
Worship Leaders Enter in Silence*

Procession of the Cross

The assembly stands

L: Behold the life-giving cross, on which hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: Oh come, let us worship him.

Hymn: *“Were You There?” #353*

Prayer of the Day

L: Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself.

C: Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Seven Last Words

L: **The First Word:** “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

Reading: Luke 23:33-38 (Marilyn Engel)

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

Song: *“The Power Of The Cross” V. 1-2*

Silence

Reflection: Pastor Tim

Response: Ours were the hands that held the nails, that struck the blows. Ours were the voices that mocked, that called out “Crucify!” Ours was the judgment that called for death. Yours were the hands that stretched out in love. Yours was the voice that begged forgiveness. Yours was the judgment that brought forth life. Form us, Lord Jesus, that we might forsake the ways of sin and death, trusting only in your word which both judges and rescues; your word which forgives.

Silence

L: **The Second Word:** “Today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

Reading: Luke 23:39-43 (Acie Sobering)

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding ^[a]him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah?^[b] Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in^[c] your kingdom.” ⁴³He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Song: *“Jesus Paid It All” V.1,3, 4*

Silence

Reflection: Pastor Tim

Response: Lord Jesus, with St. Dismas, we stand condemned justly. We have done those things which ought not to have done and we have left undone those things which we ought to have done. There is no health in us. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us the eyes of faith to see You as St. Dismas did and to recognize your cross as the entryway to your glory. Give us the courage and humility to cast ourselves upon your grace alone. Remember us.

Silence

L: **The Third Word:** “Woman, behold your son!” (John 19:26)

Reading: John 19:23-27 (Glorian Mehling)

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” ²⁵And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Song: *“The Church’s One Foundation” V. 1*

Silence

Reflection: Pastor Tim

Response: Your life poured out on the cross, Lord Jesus, creates a new covenant family, the Church. May your life poured out in our hearts so unite us to you that we might be, with your Mother and your Beloved Disciple, included in that great household of faith. Help us to regard all who are baptized as our brothers and sisters, to be received into our homes and we in theirs.

Silence

L: **The Fourth Word:** “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)

Reading: Matthew 27:45-49 (Rachel Perry)

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’ ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.’

Song: *“How Deep The Father’s Love For Us” V. 1-2*

Silence

Reflection: Pastor Tim

Response: Lord Jesus Christ your love poured out on the cross extends even to godforsakenness. It embraces all from whom Your Father’s face is hidden—by suffering, by unbelief, by loss of faith, by wickedness. It surrounds all who are tempted to cast away their faith or to lose confidence in God. It is close to all who are perplexed by the darkness of God’s ways, not knowing why they are afflicted. For all, ourselves and others, who are so burdened and troubled, Lord, hear our prayer.

Silence

L: **The Fifth Word:** “I Thirst.” (John 19:28)

Reading: John 19:28-29 (Cliff Freund)

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

Song: *“Softly And Tenderly” V. 1, 2, 4*

Silence

Reflection: Pastor Tim

Response: In your thirst, O Lord, you fulfilled the scriptures to the very end. You entered fully into the death of the sinner thirsty not simply in body, but in soul. Your humanity displayed entirely the divine love that thirsts to rescue men and women from sin and death. Even as we thank you for your full entry into human suffering, and for the salvation it accomplished, we ask to share in your thirsty love for the souls of our friends, our family, our enemies that we might serve them to the end.

Silence

L: **The Sixth Word:** “It is finished!” (John 19:30)

Reading: John 19:30 (Darlene Schmidtke-Turner)

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Song: *“It Was Finished Upon That Cross” V. 1-2*

Silence

Reflection: Pastor Tim

Response: Lord Jesus, as we stand at the foot of your cross, we give you thanks that in your death, we find victory over the powers of darkness, a sacrifice that cleanses our souls, a verdict that frees us from the sentence of death, and a love that knows no limits. Form us such that our lives—our struggles, suffering, and sorrow—might be united to your finished work and so display your self-giving love, carry the Gospel of salvation, and rejoice in Your victory.

Silence

L: **The Seventh Word:** “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (Luke 23:46)

Reading: Luke 23:44-48 (Bruce Martin)

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.

Song: *“There Is A Redeemer” V. 1-2*

Silence

Reflection: Pastor Tim

Response: Help us, Lord Jesus, through and with your Spirit, to yield our spirits to your Father. Grant us the power of your death amid the scenes of our life, the surrender of our wills in the places of our life’s work. In the struggle for our daily bread, in the hours of silent suffering, in sickness and in health, in poverty and in abundance help us to yield our souls and with you, to say, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

Silence

Bidding Prayers and the Lord’s Prayer

L: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent Prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for our bishops, for our pastors, for our deacons, and for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent Prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent Prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent Prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant’s promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer