

Journey to the Cross

A Good Friday reflection on Jesus's Life, Passion and Death...



Experienced through the Stained-Glass Windows of
Bethany Lutheran Church

To know Christ and to make Christ known.



Jesus as the Good Shepherd

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life
for the sheep.

OPENING PRAYER

Before the Altar

L: In the name of the Father, and + of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

L: Then Jesus told his disciples, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

L: Christ has humbled himself and become obedient to death:

All: Even to death on a cross.

L: Let us Pray, Mercifully assist us:

All: O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

L: Let us begin our journey to the cross:

All: In the name of our Lord. Amen.



#1 Celebrating the Birth of Jesus - Matthew 2:11 (NRSV) On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

L: *(Bow)* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

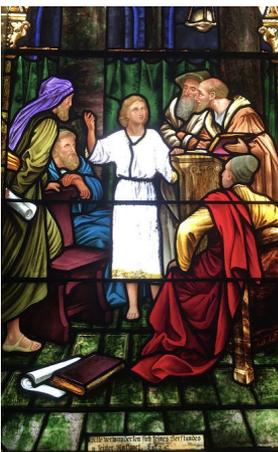
Luke 2:34-35 (NRSV) Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Brief Silence

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you took on our humanity; born in the lowliest of places, the bleakest of conditions. Gold, frankincense and myrrh, we do not have, but we bow in your presence and offer you our hearts, our minds, and our entire being to you. Help us to be your hands and feet in this community that continues to seek you; allow us to recognize and act on behalf of those who have no roof over their heads or the basics of human needs. Jesus, Son of God, Child of Mary, have mercy and hear us.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

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#2 – Jesus as a boy in the Temple - Luke 2:47 (NRSV) And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

L: *(Bow)* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

Luke 2:49-52 (NRSV) When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Brief Silence

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, whose love is like that of a mother: as you suffer, a sword pierces the heart of your blessed mother. Comfort parents who grieve the loss of children to drugs, gangs, prison, or death, and give us courage to offer support and strength. Jesus, heart of compassion, have mercy and hear us.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

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#3 – Children in the arms of Jesus - Mark 10:16 (NRSV) And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

L: *(Bow)* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

Mark 10:13-16 (NRSV) People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Brief Silence

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you welcome and wrap all into your arms, and your love is made known in acts of selfless love: draw near to all who suffer in body or spirit; liberate all your children who live under oppression, and open our eyes to see your beauty in each person. Jesus, arms open to all, have mercy and hear us.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

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#4 – Jesus heals the Sick - Luke 5:17 (NRSV) One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.

L: *(Bow)* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

Mark 6:55-56 (NRSV) [They] began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Brief Silence

L: Let us pray. Jesus, servant of all: our fallen world is lifted up and rescued from the hopelessness of death. Grant perseverance to those at the limits of their mental, physical, or moral strength, and strengthen those who counsel the despairing or suicidal. Jesus, who offers hope to the hopeless, have mercy and hear us.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

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#5 – **Jesus teaching Mary** - Luke 10:41-42 (NRSV) “there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

L: *(Bow)* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

John 11:5a,32-36 (NRSV) Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus... When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

Brief Silence

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, bearing our shame, as you are stripped of your dignity: we remember all those exposed to ridicule— battered wives, victims of abuse and violence, and all exploited because of race, gender, or sexual orientation. Clothe them with your mercy and bestow on them dignity that belongs to them as children of God. Jesus, whose body is for us the image of God, have mercy and hear us.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

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#6 – **Jesus in the Garden** - Matthew 26:39 (NRSV) And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”

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

(Bow)

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

Matthew 26:40-42 (NRSV) Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

Brief Silence

L: Let us Pray. Lord Jesus, bearer of our sins, comfort all who stumble under life’s burdens: bless those who give of themselves for the service of others, that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister to all those who suffer. Jesus, who laid down your life for us, have mercy and hear us.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

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#7 – **Jesus crowned with Thorns** - John 19:5 (NRSV) So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

L: *(Bow)* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

John 19:6-7 (NRSV) When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”

Brief Silence

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency: be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the powerful. You were the victim of unbridled injustice: change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to your way of peace.

Jesus, innocent though condemned, have mercy and hear us.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

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#8 – **Jesus dies on the Cross** - John 1:29 (NRSV) Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

L: *(Bow)* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

John 19:25-30 (NRSV) Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was

now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A 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. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

A time of Silence

L: Let us Pray. Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend stayed with you to the bitter end, yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them: be with all broken families today and tend to those who long for companionship. You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes: give us a love for one another that is stronger even than the fear of death. Jesus, trusting to the very end, have mercy and hear us.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

[Move to front facing altar.](#)

L: *(Bow)* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

L: Let us pray as Jesus taught us...

ALL: 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.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy and hear us.

Silence will be held for prayer and meditation



Crucifix located on the back altar.

**All are welcome to stay for prayer and meditation,
or may leave in silent reverence.**

Sanctuary is open until 3pm for prayer, devotion or one-on-one discussion.

3pm – The time of Jesus' Death – Moment of Silence

(Bow)

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

All: By your holy cross you have renewed the world.

Leave in Silence

**We are an Open and Affirming
Reconciling in Christ Congregation
We welcome all who are seeking
God's love and grace.**



We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, differently-abled or anything that too often divides us.
Our Unity is in Christ.

Some prayers taken from online sources of the Common Book of Prayer & Evangelical Lutheran Worship
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.