

April 3, 2026
Good Friday



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*

GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

This service incorporates time for meditation and reflection.

The service is celebrated simply and not hurried.

In keeping with the meditative nature of the service, there is no prelude or other preservice music.

The organ is used only to support congregational singing.

The altar, stripped bare of its appointments on Maundy Thursday, is not used during the service. The service will be conducted at the lectern.

The Reproaches are an ancient element of the service.

The Reproaches represent Christ calling his people to repentance for sin and unbelief. Christians should hear these words as a strong call to repentance addressed to them.

There is no provision within the service order for the gathering of an offering. You may leave your offering as you leave worship.

The minister enters in silence.

STAND

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

LESSON: ISAIAH 52:13–53:12

Silence for prayer and meditation

HYMN: A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH
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GOSPEL

The History of Our Lord's Suffering and Death according to St. John is read.

The congregation will stand at John 19:17 and remains standing for the remainder of the reading. A brief silence will be observed at the words telling of Jesus' death (John 19:30). The congregation is seated at the conclusion of the reading.

Silence for prayer and meditation

HYMN: O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

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SERMON on Zechariah 3:1-10

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you."

Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

The angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua: “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.

“‘Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day. In that day each of you will invite your neighbor to sit under your vine and fig tree,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”

STAND

BIDDING PRAYER

Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

Silent prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to your Word so that in every adversity, we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior’s work, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God.

Silent prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

Silent prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism, that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live new and holy lives, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority.

Silent prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us.

Silent prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one, true God and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent.

Silent prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

Silent prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you, whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and faith so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial.

Silent prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our grief and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation, that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us.

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.

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST

RESPONSES

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

Oh, come, let us worship him.

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

Oh, come, let us worship him.

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

Oh, come, let us worship him.

BE SEATED

Silence for meditation

REPROACHES

First Reproach

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer,
God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord have mercy.

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

Second Reproach

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer,
God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord have mercy.

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

Third Reproach

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer,
God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord have mercy.

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Your peace be with us, O Jesus!**

Silence for meditation

HYMN: SING, MY TONGUE, THE GLORIOUS BATTLE

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We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.
You may leave your offering as you leave worship.*