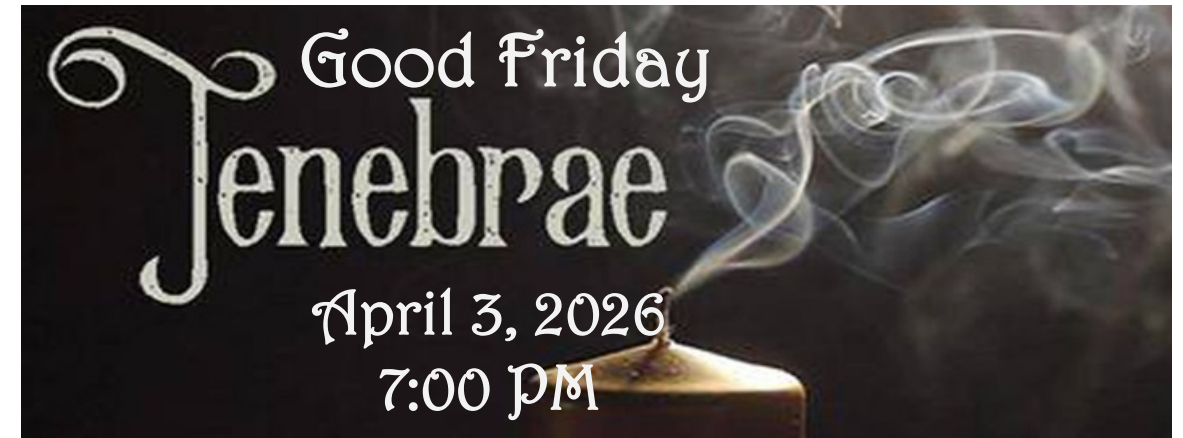


# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, NALC

*The Mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people.*



*Good Friday is the high point of Holy Week, but not of the Church Year-for we know that after Good Friday a day is coming when death will give way to life. If the commemoration of Good Friday was separated from Easter, we would remain in our sins, and thus the ultimate word of Good Friday would be “you are condemned.” Even as we stand at the foot of the cross and contemplate the price of our sin, we gather as children reconciled to God. In the services of Good Friday, the Church does not leave us in the darkness and the shadow of death but rather fills us with the certainty of victory over sin, death, and the devil, pointing us to the final victory that will be celebrated on Easter.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*OPENING VERSICLES

P: O Lord, open my lips

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make hast to help me, O Lord. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

**\*GOOD FRIDAY PSALMODY - Psalm 22**

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C: Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?**

P: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer.

**C: and by night, but I find no rest.**

P: Yet, you are holy,

**C: enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

P: In you our father trusted;

**C: they trusted, and you delivered them**

P: To you they cried and were rescued;

**C: in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

P: But I am a worm and not a man,

**C: scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

P: All who see me mock me;

**C: they make mouths at me; they way their heads;**

P: "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;

**C: let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"**

P: Yet you are he who took me from the womb;

**C: you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.**

P: On you was I cast from my birth,

**C: and from my mother's womb you have been my God.**

P: Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

**C: and there is no one to help.**

P: Many bulls encompass me

**C: strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

P: they open wide their mouths at me,

**C: like a ravening and roaring lion.**

P: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

**C: my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast.**

P: my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

**C: you lay me in the dust of death.**

P: For dogs encompass me;

**C: a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet-**

P: I can count all my bones-

**C: they stare and gloat over me;**

P: they divide my garments among them,

**C: and for my clothing they cast lots.**

P: But You, O Lord, do not be far off!

**C: O you, my help, come quickly to my aid!**

P: Deliver my soul from the sword,

**C: my precious life from the power of the dog!**

P: Save me from the mouth of the lion!

**C: You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!**

P: I will tell of your name to my brothers;

**C: in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

P: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,

**C: and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

P: For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,

and he has not hidden his face from him,

**C: but has heard, when he cried to him.**

P: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

**C: my vows I will perform before those who fear him.**

P: The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord!

**C: and he rules over the nations.**

P: All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;

**C: before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the ones who could not keep himself alive.**

P: Posterity shall serve him;

**C: it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**

P: they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,

**C: that he has done it.**

P: Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men and to suffer death on the cross; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**OFFICE HYMN ~ “Ah, Holy Jesus”**

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that we to judge thee  
have in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.**

**For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation, thy mortal sorrow,  
and thy life’s oblation; thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
for my salvation.**

**Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee,  
and will ever pray thee; think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,  
not my deserving.**

“Ah, Holy Jesus” - Reprinted from Lutheran Book of Worship copyright © 1978 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #8101-L

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

**SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9**

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: John 18:1-19:42**

**First Reading: “The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus”**

**HYMN: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” Verse 1**

**O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” © Augsburg Fortress Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBL08500

**Second Reading: “Jesus Before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter”**

**HYMN: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” Verse 2**

**How art thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;  
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!  
Thy grief and bitter Passion were all for sinners’ gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” © Augsburg Fortress Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBL08500

**Third Reading: “Jesus Before Pontius Pilate”**

**HYMN: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” Verse 3**

**What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,  
For this thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
Oh, make me thine forever, and, should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” © Augsburg Fortress Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBL08500

**Fourth Reading: “Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion”**

**HYMN: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” Verse 4**

**My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian own me Thine.  
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.  
Thy lips have often fed me with words of truth and love;  
Thy Spirit oft hath led me to heavenly joys above.**

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**Fifth Reading: “The Crucifixion of Jesus”**

**HYMN: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” Verse 5**

**What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,  
For this thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
Oh, make me thine forever, and, should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.**

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**Sixth Reading: “Jesus’ Mother and His Death”**

**HYMN: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” Verse 6**

**My Savior, be Thou near me when death is at my door;  
Then let thy presence cheer me, forsake me nevermore!  
When soul and body languish, Oh, leave me not alone,  
But take away mine anguish by virtue of Thine own!**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” © Augsburg Fortress Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBL08500

**Seventh Reading:** “The Burial of Jesus”

**HYMN:** “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” *Verse 7*

**Be Thou consolation, My Shield, when I must die;  
Remind me of Thy Passion, when my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,  
My heart by faith enfold Thee, who di-eth thus dies well.**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” © Augsburg Fortress Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBL08500

**SERMON:** “*Golgotha - A Place of Life*”

**HYMN:** “What Wondrous Love is This” *Verses 1-2*

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down Beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.**

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## THE BIDDING PRAYER

The Bidding Prayer is a form of prayer that is traditionally prayed in the church on Good Friday. A reader announces each bid, or part of the prayer, and the Pastor leads the congregation in each prayer.

***Congregation Response after each prayer: Amen.***

## THE SLAMMING OF THE TOMB - LIGHTING OF THE PASCAL CANDLE

Special Music by Susan Lichty ~ “*Were You There*”

**SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION** ~ Please depart in silence.

*At the conclusion of this service, please leave the sanctuary silently when you desire, maintaining the spirit of worship befitting this solemn evening.*



**SERVING ST. PAUL GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3:** Pastor: Rev. Christopher Martin **Accompanist:** Susan Lichty **Acolyte:** Kingsley Kreykes **Lectors:** Barb Sneiderman **Prayer Readers:** Karen Appleton, Lowell Appleton **Sound Tech:** Larry Schnider **PowerPoint Tech:** Rae Lynn Schnider **Video Tech:** Scott Lichty **Ushers:** Nathan Zoet, Gail Pike, Darrell Sneiderman

**SERVING ST. PAUL EASTER SUNRISE, APRIL 5 -7:00 AM:** Pastor: Rev. Christopher Martin **Accompanist:** Lori Richards **Acolyte:** \_\_\_ **Sound Tech:** Mark Brown **PowerPoint Tech:** Heather Honkomp **Video Tech:** Scott Lichty **Ushers:** Gerry Seivert, Kathy Seivert, Mike Vander Berg, Monica Honkomp **Communion Set-up:** Stephanie Wolf, Sue Tokheim **Communion Servers:** Ben Van Beek, Shanelle Matus, Colton Eich, Brian Honkomp

**SERVING ST. PAUL EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5 -9:00 AM:** Pastor: Rev. Christopher Martin **Accompanist:** Susan Lichty **Acolyte:** Kyler Wynja **Sound Tech:** Craig Vander Linden **PowerPoint Tech:** Jeanne Lichty **Video Tech:** Rae Lynn Schnider **Lector:** Gail Pike **Usher Captain:** Dan Matus **Ushers:** Andy Timm, Wayne Woelber, Nancy Woelber **Communion Set-up:** Stephanie Wolf, Sue Tokheim **Communion Servers:** Larry Schnider, Cassie Kruger, Roger Sauer, Janice Wielenga **Receipt Recorders:** Janice Wielenga, Tami Roetman

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Dorothy Breuer, Judy Kruse, Carol Luepke, Le O'Brien, Ron Plum, Mary Ellen Reyelts, Teagan Vos, Andrea (friend of Lindsay Martin), Rich Haack (brother of Donna Koepnick), Katie Stavig (sister of Andy Timm), Jen Zeimen (granddaughter of Harold/Jo Eichmann), and Carol Nielsen.

Thank you to Fred and Tami Roetman for sponsoring our Livestream for the Good Friday service.

Thank you to everyone who helped this evening with the Good Friday service.

**Congratulations to our fifth grade students:** Avery Eich, Alice Kanengieter, June Schilling, and Keaton Sneiderman. They have completed their First Communion training with Pastor Christopher Martin. They will receive their First Communion with family during the service.

The Church offices will be **CLOSED on Monday, April 6.**

**Good Friday** offerings will go to the general fund. **Easter Sunrise** offering will go to St. Paul Youth groups unless designated to a specific fund on your offering envelope.

The Church Council of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sheldon, Iowa, has called for a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. in the church sanctuary. A vote will be held on whether or not to amend the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1425 Pleasant Court, Sheldon, IA 51201, Constitution by adding a provision (**red**) to C12.03. (page 9) - No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office, **except the Treasurer, who is eligible to serve up to three consecutive terms of one year each.**

A fundraiser has been started for repairing the stained-glass windows in the church sanctuary. Donations may be given through your offering by writing “Stained-Glass Windows Repair” in the memo or by bringing in to the church office. **Help us reach our goal to restore our beautiful stained-glass windows.**

**We are thankful you joined us in worship today.** Thank you for your continued support of our mission and ministry. There are several ways to give: During worship - offering plates or donation boxes; Online [stpaulsheldon.org](http://stpaulsheldon.org) in the GIVE menu, MAKE A DONATION; Electronic funds transfer (EFT) with your bank.