




## **ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

“AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus,  
a Grateful Zoar Gathers, Grows and Gives”

### **Good Friday**

**Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm**

**Pastor Paul Reichert and Pastor Melanie Forrey**



# STATEMENT OF WELCOME

Beloved, welcome to Zoar!

We are glad you are here. Whether you are new, attend worship regularly, are just passing through, or haven't been here in years, you belong - you are wanted - you are loved, just as you are. You and all people are wonderfully made by God, created in goodness for goodness, and are a part of one vibrant Divine tapestry with all of creation.

At Zoar Lutheran Church, all are welcome, and all means all. We celebrate diversity and embrace people of all ethnicities, cultures, and colors, all gender identities and expressions, all sexual orientations, all abilities, all ages, and folks from all walks of life. We desire wellness, wholeness, and hopefulness for all people, and will not turn away from anyone in their time of need, whatever that looks like.

We are committed to advocating for justice, seeking equity, encouraging curiosity, and caring for the most vulnerable. We condemn racism, discrimination, and other forces, words, and actions that oppress, exclude, and harm. While we know that we still have a lot to learn, we endeavor to be accountable when we make mistakes. We will continue to grow in ways that help us take better care of each other and the planet.

With our whole hearts, we strive to share the abundant love of God, practice the unexpected and generous hospitality of Jesus, and be moved by the Holy Spirit toward meaningful change and a stronger relationship with our Creator, our neighbors, and all the earth.

No matter where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here at Zoar!



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*(Congregation please rise as you are able when indicated by the “\*”)*

## **Introduction**

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John’s passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ’s death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

## **WE GATHER IN SILENCE**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 52:13- -53:12**

<sup>13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. <sup>14</sup>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— <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 22

Tone:



<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words | of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not answer;  
by night, but I | find no rest.**

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are the | Holy One,  
enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>**Our ancestors put their | trust in you,  
they trusted, and you | rescued them.**

<sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and | were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.

<sup>6</sup>**But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,  
scorned by all and despised | by the people.**

<sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh | me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.

<sup>8</sup>**“Trust in the LORD; let the | LORD deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in him.”**

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my | mother’s breast.

<sup>10</sup>**I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my | mother’s womb.**

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,  
and there is no | one to help.

<sup>12</sup>**Many young bulls en- | circle me;  
strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me.**

<sup>13</sup>They open wide their | jaws at me,  
like a slashing and | roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>**I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.**

<sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof | of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the | dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers | circles round me;  
they pierce my hands | and my feet.**

<sup>17</sup>I can count | all my bones  
while they stare at | me and gloat.

<sup>18</sup>**They divide my gar- | ments among them;  
for my clothing, | they cast lots.**

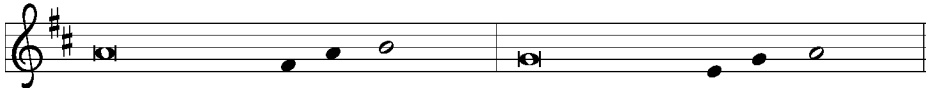
<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not | far away;  
O my help, hasten | to my aid.

<sup>20</sup>**Deliver me | from the sword,  
my life from the power | of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the | lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.

Tone:



<sup>22</sup>**I will declare your name | to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you.**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is  
the LORD's face hid- | den from them;  
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25**

[After the Holy Spirit says,] <sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," <sup>17</sup>he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



1 Some-times our on - ly song is weep - ing; our on - ly  
2 Some-times we catch the faint-est hum - ming, a far-off



sound is gasp - ing breath. Some-times it seems that God is  
tune our hearts know well. Some-times we sense the Spir-it



sleep-ing while our brief lives are bound in death.  
com - ing. Our song re - turns; our voic - es swell.



Who hears the song our sor-rows swal-low and of - fers  
The Spir - it sings though we are shak - en, and Christ has



hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and  
shared our heart-felt cries. Re - stored, our wea - ry souls a -



hol - low, God heeds the prayers with - in our tears.  
wak - en to join God's song that nev - er dies.

# **GOSPEL: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John**

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## **First Reading: John 18:1-27**

Jesus is betrayed, arrested and taken before the High Priest.

### **Hymn**

*“Ah Holy Jesus, vs 1-2”*

ELW #349

## **Second Reading: John: 18:28-19:7**

Jesus is taken before Pilate and is later mocked.

### **Hymn**

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded, vs 1-2*

ELW #351

## **Third Reading: John 19:8-22**

Jesus is sentenced to death and crucified.

### **Hymn**

*Go to Dark Gethsemane, vs 1-2*

ELW #347

## **Fourth Reading: John 19:23-25a**

Soldiers divide Jesus' clothes.

### **Hymn**

*Lamb of God/ Your Only Son, vs 2*

ELW #336

## **Fifth Reading: John 19:25b-30**

Jesus and his mother.

### **Hymn**

*Were You There, vs 1-2*

ELW #353

## **\*Sixth Reading: John 19:31-42**

The death of Jesus.

*Silence for prayer follows the reading.*

***Congregation please sit.***

### **Hymn**

*Were You There, vs 4-5*

ELW #353

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**\*Procession of the Cross**

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

People: **Oh, come, let us | worship him.**

*The dialogue is spoken at the end of each stage of the procession.*

*Please sit.*

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, | and we bless you.

People: **By your holy cross you have re- | deemed the world.**

*The dialogue repeated three times,*

**Solemn Reproaches**

Leader: O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?

Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom,  
and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

*(several Solemn Reproaches are offered and the assembly responds after each)*

Leader: O my people, O my church...but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

**Adoration of the Cross**

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

People: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Musical Meditation**

12 pm: *Jesus I Will Ponder Now*

ELW #345

*Stay With Me*

ELW #348

7 pm: *Give Me Jesus*

Bell Choir

*He Never Said A Mumbalin' Word*

Piano solo

*Stay With Me*

ELW #348

*During the music, congregants may approach the cross for meditation and prayer.*

*All depart in silence, however, the cantor and/or the choir will  
continue to provide meditative music.*

*At the end of the service, worshipers may come to the  
large cross to make a sign of reverence.*

*Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross,  
bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.*

*Worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.*

***As you leave the church, we ask you to do so in silence.***