



By His wounds

we are healed.

6:30 p.m. – Service of the Word

**Order of Service**

**Saint Michael Lutheran Church**

**3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901**

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**Good Friday**

**April 18, 2025**

**– As We Gather –**

*In this Lenten season we have considered all the works of our Lord's hand contrasted with the works of our hands. His hands created us. At His hands, the devil and his demons are defeated and put in their place. His are the careful, gentle yet strong hands of a Great Physician bringing healing not only of sickness and injury but the ultimate healing of raising us from death itself. To this day the hand of the Lord cares for us and feeds us with spiritual nourishment and life. How different are the works of our hands, unable to grasp what we need the most: the help and mercy and grace of God. In the most mysterious way, it was our hands that nailed His hands to the cross, and it was our sin that caused His grief, sorrow, bitter suffering, and death. Yet in those nail-pierced hands was the power to take our sin away and give into our hands forgiveness, life, and salvation. We caused His death. His death gives us life. Without His death, today there can be no Easter resurrection. It all comes down to this: Christ crucified for the life of the world. Without His death there can be no salvation. Let us contemplate His death at our hands that we may receive eternal life from His hands.*

***Gather in Silence***

**Hymn Prelude**

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

*arr. by Ben Ball*

**Hymn**

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*  
*(verses 1-2)*

**621**

**Responsive Reading**

*Psalms 22:1, 7-8, 16-18, 27-28;  
John 1:29*

*Pastor:* In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

*Pastor:* Jesus' ancestor, David the psalmist, foretold by divine inspiration the suffering and sacrifice of his descendant Jesus, the Lamb of God. Nailed to the cross, Jesus prayed using words from the prophetic psalm: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

**People:** **‘He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!’**

*Pastor:* For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

**People:** **They have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—**

*Pastor:* They stare and gloat over me;

**People:** **They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.**

*Pastor:* All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

**People:** **And all the families of the nations shall worship before you.**

*Pastor:* For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.”

**People:** **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**

## Confession & Absolution

*Pastor:* O Lord,

**People:** **have mercy.**

*Pastor:* O Christ,

**People:** **have mercy.**

*Pastor:* O Lord,

**People:** **have mercy.**

*Pastor:* God the Father in heaven,

**People:** **have mercy on us.**

*Pastor:* God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**People:** **have mercy on us.**

*Pastor:* God the Holy Spirit,

**People:** **have mercy on us.**

*Pastor:* From all sin, from all evil, from all suffering,

**People:** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Pastor:* By Your incarnation, by Your cross and suffering, by Your death and burial,

**People:** **help us, Good Lord.**

*Pastor:* By Your resurrection and ascension, by the coming of Your Holy Spirit,

**People:** **help us, Good Lord.**

*Pastor:* We poor sinners implore You that You deliver us from all evil and eternal death;

**People:** **we implore You to hear us, Good Lord.**

*Pastor:* That You forgive us all our sins,

**People:** **we implore You to hear us, Good Lord.**

*Pastor:* O Lord,

**People:** **have mercy.**

*Pastor:* O Christ,

**People:** **have mercy.**

*Pastor:* O Lord,

**People:** **have mercy.**

## Prayer of the Day

*Pastor:* Let us pray.

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

# Anthem

*"Gethsemane Hymn"*

*arr. by David Angerman  
by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
offered by the Sanctuary Choir*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 53:1-12*

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

## Holy Gospel

*John 18:28-19:16*

Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned

Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?" They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.



**Holy Gospel***John 19:17-37*

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." So this is what the soldiers did. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

## Sermon

*"The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us"*

*Pastor Dave Bass*

## Prayers

## The Lord's Prayer

## Closing Sentences

*Pastor:* Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the Savior of the world.

**People:** **O come, let us worship Him.**

*Pastor:* Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the Redeemer of the world.

**People:** **O come, let us worship Him.**

*Pastor:* Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the Salvation of the world.

**People:** **O come, let us worship Him.**

## Special Music

*"In the Silence"*

*words and music by Katie Ball  
offered by Katie Ball*

## The Removal of the Christ Candle

*The removal of the Christ Candle takes place to symbolize that our Savior hung in darkness for three God-forsaken hours before he died for the sins of the world.*

*The Strepitus is heard – a loud sound that symbolizes the stone being rolled into place to seal Jesus' tomb. The congregation leaves in silence as we remember Jesus' sacrifice and look forward to the joy of his resurrection.*

***The congregation departs in silence.***

## Offering

As stewards of God's abundant gifts, we are called to use our time, talents and treasures to further His kingdom and serve one another in love. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Let us continue to grow in faith and generosity, trusting that God will provide for all our needs as we faithfully serve Him.

Online contributions and donations can be made by clicking this link: [tinyurl.com/SMLGiving](https://tinyurl.com/SMLGiving).  
You may also mail your offerings to the church office: 3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901.





# EASTER SUNDAY

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## Worship Services

7:00 am - Outdoor Sunrise Service

9:00 am & 11:00 am

## Easter Breakfast 8:00 am - 10:45 am

Continental breakfast in the cafeteria

## Family Photo Opportunity

There will be 2 photo areas for your family to enjoy.

## Easter Story Walk

Families are invited to join us on Easter morning for an interactive journey that brings the gospel story to life. Join us in the grassy area across from the gym entrance to experience this meaningful celebration of Easter.

