

# A WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

[Good Friday Worship based on Psalm 23]

*The day our Lord died is the most solemn day of the church year. Tonight we remember: "God has laid on him the iniquity of us all." The service is solemn, reverent, and filled with devotion. The worshipers enter the church in silence, meditating on the great sacrifice the Savior made.*



*The minister enters in silence.*

**STAND**

## PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

**M:** Let us pray.

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.

**C: Amen.**

**BE SEATED**

## MEDITATION ON THE WORD

**Hebrews 7:27**

(Pew Bible pg. 1809)

*"Once for All Time"*

**HYMN: 118** "O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head"

## PRAYER

*Meditation on the walk through death*

**M:** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

**C:** Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## Preparation for the Journey

**Scripture Lesson**

**Exodus 12:1-13 (Pew Bible pg. 99)**

*"YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME  
IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES."*

**M:** We all, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way,

**C:** And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.  
(Isaiah 53:6)

**M:** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth.

**C:** He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.  
(Isaiah 53:7)

**HYMN: 100 v. 1-2** "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

## Footsteps Through the Valley

*The First Step: Through the Valley of Decision*

**Scripture Lesson**

**Luke 22:39-46 (Pew Bible pg. 1587)**

*"HE RESTORES MY SOUL.  
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL;  
MY CUP OVERFLOWS."*

**M:** He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

**C:** he restores my soul.

*Step Two: Through the Valley of Betrayal*

Scripture Lesson Luke 22:47-53 (Pew Bible pg. 1588)

*"HE GUIDES ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS  
FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE."*

**HYMN: 105 v. 5** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

**M:** Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread,

**C:** has lifted up his heel against me. (Psalm 41:9)

*Step Three: Through the Valley of Denial*

Scripture Lesson Luke 22:54-62 (Pew Bible pg. 1588)

*"FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;"*

**M:** Do not be far from me, for trouble is near

**C:** and there is no one to help. (Psalm 22:11)

*Step Four: Through the Valley of Derision*

Scripture Lesson Luke 22:63-71 (Pew Bible pg. 1588)

*"YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.  
HE LEADS ME BESIDE QUIET WATERS,  
HE RESTORES MY SOUL."*

**HYMN: 105 v. 2** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

**M:** Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:21)

**C:** He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. (1 Peter 2:22,23)

*Step Five: Through the Valley of Judgment*

Scripture Lesson Luke 23:1-25 (Pew Bible pg. 1589)

*"I SHALL NOT BE IN WANT."*

**Choir:** "In Pilate's Hall"

**M:** By oppression and judgment, he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants?

**C:** For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. (Isaiah 53:8)

*Step Six: Through the Valley of Pain and Torment*

Scripture Lesson Luke 23:26-43 (Pew Bible pg. 1590)

*"SURELY GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME  
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE,  
AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD  
FOREVER."*

**HYMN: 119** "Were You There"

**M:** Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. (Psalm 22:16)

**C:** But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. (Psalm 22:19)

*Step Seven: Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death*

*"EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH  
THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,  
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;"*

Scripture Lesson Luke 23:44-46 (Pew Bible pg. 1591)

STAND

**PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

BE SEATED

*The Final Step: Through the Valley to the Grave*

**Scripture Lesson                      Luke 23:50-53 (Pew Bible pg. 1591)**

**"I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD  
FOREVER."**

**M:** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

**C:** for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**PRAYER**

My Savior, then be near me When death is at my door,  
And let your presence cheer me; Forsake me nevermore!  
When soul and body languish, Oh, leave me not alone,  
But take away my anguish By virtue of your own!

Lord, be my consolation, My Shield when I must die;  
Remind me of your Passion When my last hour draws nigh.  
My eyes will then behold you, Upon your cross will dwell;  
My heart will then enfold you — Who dies in faith dies well!  
Amen.

*Silence for meditation*

**M:** The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead."

**C:** "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. (Matthew 27:62-66)

**The Strepitus** (*Symbolizes the rolling of the stone, closing the tomb*)

**HYMN: 138 v. 1 & 5** "Oh, Perfect Life of Love"

**M:** Now all is silent. The hellish crew, death and the grave have had their day. Yet, they shall not have the last word. The Temple they sought to destroy, he will raise up again on the third day. In confident hope and expectation the church awaits the glory of the Easter morn.

**M:** My body also will rest secure, (Psalm 16:9)

**C:** Because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. (Psalm 16:10)

**CLOSING PRAYER**

*The minister exits the chancel.*

*The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.*

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**Organist:** Christy Ittel

Easter Sunrise Worship: 6:30am      Easter Breakfast: 7:15 – 8:30 am  
Easter Festival Worship: 9:00am

**DOOR COLLECTION:** *on Sunday (Easter), we will have a door collection for our Fellowship/Outreach Fund. Your generous support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.*

**EASTER LILIES AND PLANTS:** *Members of the congregation are welcome to bring plants for our worship on Easter Sunday. Place them on the steps in the church.*

**SET UP FOR EASTER BREAKFAST:** *The youth members and their parents are reminded that we will be setting up for Easter Breakfast on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am.*

**EASTER BREAKFAST:** *The youth will again be hosting an Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday. Everyone is welcome to come. Feel free to bring friends and relatives. A free-will donation will be collected. Thank you for all of your support!*

**NEWSLETTERS** *for the month of April are available. Please stop and pick yours up today.*

**LADIES AID INVITES EVERYONE** *to join them for a special presentation on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Members of the mission team from First Lutheran Church in Glencoe will be here to share ministry experiences from their trip to Uganda, Africa. We look forward to seeing you there!*

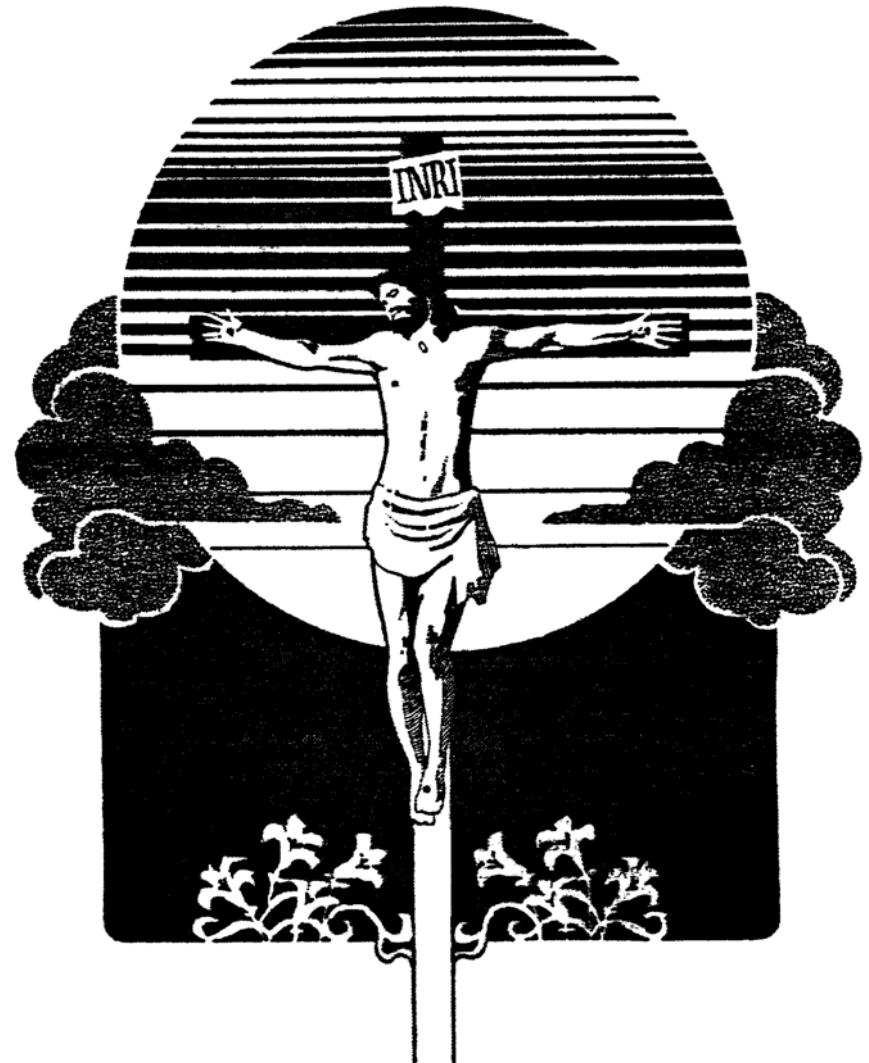
**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Helen Township, Minnesota**

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Dennis Reichow, Pastor (320) 864-3093

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*Good Friday Worship  
April 2, 2010*