

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**HOLSTEIN, IA      APRIL 3, 2026      7:00 PM**

A circular wreath of thorns, likely representing the crown of thorns, is centered on the page. In the middle of the wreath is a simple, dark cross. The background is a light, textured grey.

**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

**JOINT WORSHIP WITH HOLSTEIN UMC**

*Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. We gather in solemn devotion but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. Thanks be to God..*

\*There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.  
Tonight's offering will go to the Holstein Ministerial Association\*

### **Call to Worship**

Followers of Jesus, today we arrive at Pilate's palace, hearing the cries of "Crucify! Crucify!" from the crowds outside.

**We come to witness Jesus, sentenced to death by religious leaders, government officials, and the crowd.**

Today, we arrive at Golgotha, at the foot of the cross where only a few of Jesus' followers dared to gather to bear witness.

**We come to witness Jesus, crucified for teaching love, speaking truth, and forgiving sins.**

Today, we arrive at the tomb where Jesus' friends laid his body, a final act of love.

**We come to witness Jesus, his death a testament to all that sin and evil will do to resist the power of Love to transform the world.**

Today, we arrive at Good Friday to remember, once again, the story of Jesus crucified.

**We come to witness Jesus, who, even in death, shows us the magnitude of God's steadfast love that never fails.**

### **Prayer**

Gracious God, we remember with love and tears the torture and death of your Son, Jesus. We believe that he was the rejected One, the despised One, the Man of sorrows bearing our griefs and wounded for the brokenness in humanity. We come to worship in deep personal repentance and recommit ourselves to recognize all crosses, ease all suffering and pain, and speak out against injustice in every time and place.

**Amen.**

### **Opening Song**

### **O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

#351

#### **Nearer My God to Thee**

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee,  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.

## Good Friday Gospel - John 18-19:42

**Jesus Is Betrayed and Arrested** - John 18:1-11

**Annas Questions Jesus** - John 18:12-24

**Peter Denies Knowing Jesus** - John 18:25-27

*Ah, Holy Jesus* st. 1-2 #349

**Jesus Stands Trial before Pilate** - John 18:28-37

**Pilate Hands Jesus Over to Be Crucified** - John 18:38-19:16

**Jesus Is Led Away to Be Crucified** - John 19:16-27

*Were You There* st. 1-2 #353

**Jesus Dies on the Cross** - John 19:28-37

*Were You There* st. 3-4

**Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb** - John 19:38-42

*Were You There* st. 5

**Reflection** ~ Pastor Kristin Boysen

**Song** *Now Behold the Lamb* #341

**"Crucifixion: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross"**

— A Sonnet for Good Friday by Malcolm Guite

**Benediction**

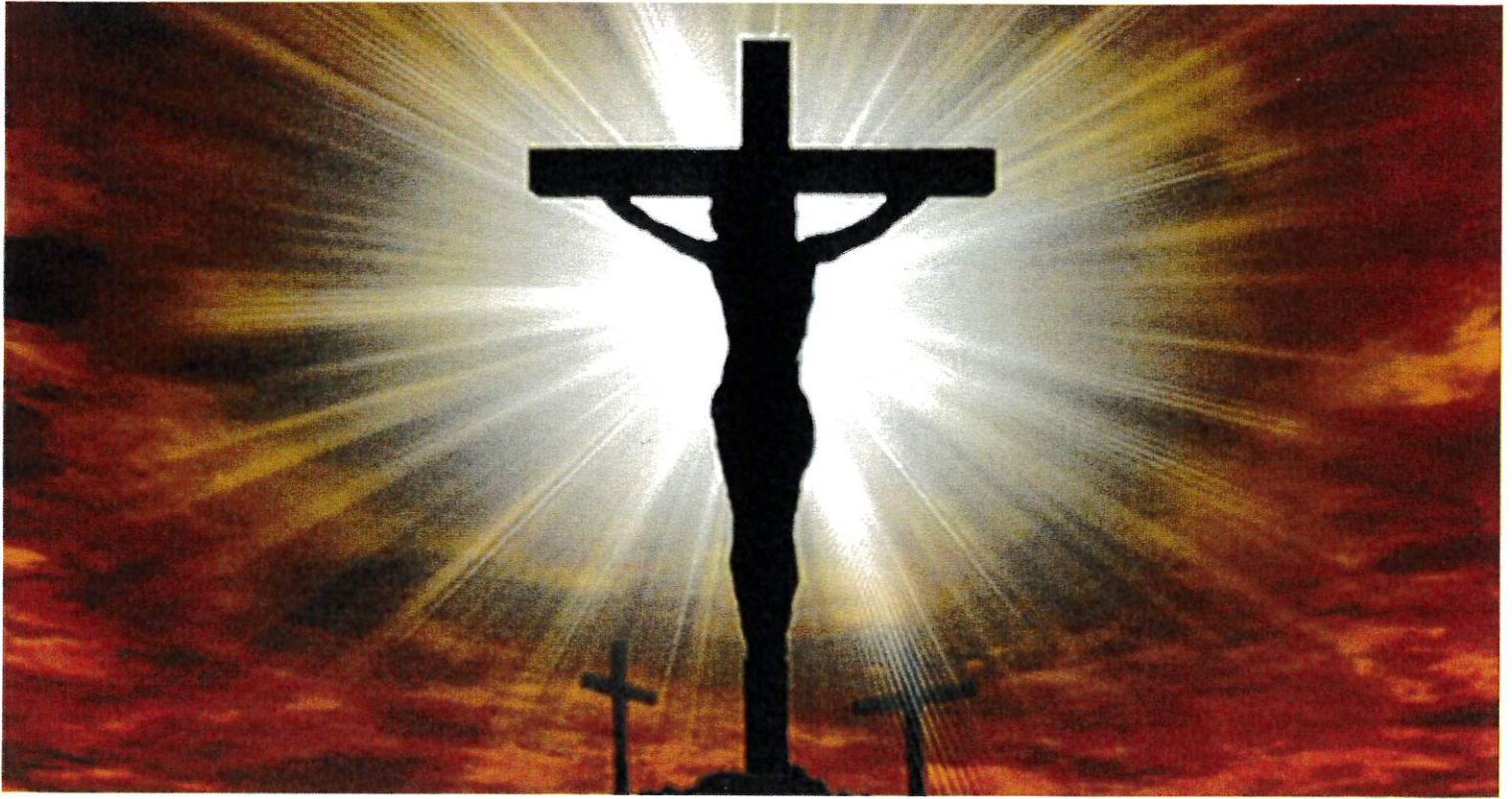
May God bless you as you go from this place to reflect on the quiet of the tomb, the apparent end of the journey, as we wait and watch for God to do a new thing among us.

**Amen.**

**Closing Song** *Lamb of God* #336

You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for a time of meditation and leave quietly when ready.

*IT IS FINISHED*



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

*Call to Worship and Benediction Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.  
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