

Good Friday – April 18, 2025

**Everything [in] between
Acceptance & Resistance**



THE CRUCIFIXION

&

THE TOMB

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church



Welcome to our Service

Our mission at Mount Tabor is to be “an inclusive, compassionate faith community living God’s love in the world.” Mount Tabor is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation of the ELCA. This means that all are welcome and affirmed, especially our LGBTQ+ siblings, and that we are connected to the world. We all have a place here at God’s round table just as we are!

If this is your first time here, a special welcome to you! We are mask optional and mask friendly. Please sign the guest register in the narthex (along with your e-mail and cell) so we can be in touch, put on a name tag and join us for refreshments after the service.

Holy Communion is open to all. Children of all ages are invited to receive communion with their parents’ or guardians’ permission. Come when you are ready. Gluten-free bread is available. If you would like a blessing, come to the altar with your arms folded.

Children are welcome at all times in the sanctuary. We are blessed to be part of their faith formation through worship!

Please turn off cell phones in the sanctuary before worship begins.

You may add names to the prayer list by sending a request to Brenda Wardle (office@mttaborslc.org), or Pastor Christine (pastor@mttaborslc.org). Names added to the prayer list will remain there for one month. You may request that they stay on longer or come off sooner by contacting the same people.

Visit our web site at www.mttaborslc.org

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 18, 2025

Greeting & Preparation for Worship

Last night we sat at the Table with Jesus and tonight we follow him into the Garden of Gethsemane and all the way to the cross. We will continue the readings where we left off last night. We will also read between the lines of scripture to imagine parts of the story through the eyes of figures who are often overlooked. After all, Jesus spent most of his time with the people who slip through cracks in society.

Come, let us join Jesus in his final day.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as the People of God.

*Call to Worship

We have come to worship the Trinity,
One God, three persons,
beyond our understanding
yet constantly revealing themselves to us.
We have come to worship an infinite being
who took on finite flesh:
fully human and fully divine—
a being who is love itself,
yet loathes injustice;
who is almighty,
yet let go of power
to be in solidarity with outcasts and criminals.
We gather to worship the living God
who died.



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

Please be seated.

THE CRUCIFIXION

THE WORD

God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching and Song

Third Reading

Luke 23:20-27

²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, ²¹ but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²² A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." ²³ But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. ²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

Simon of Cyrene

***Hymn**

Ah, Holy Jesus

#349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Please be seated.

Confession

When we follow in the steps of Jesus, we say yes to bearing his cross— not because there is any kind of value in suffering, not to prove our selflessness, nor because God wills it, but because living as Jesus lived makes the cross inevitable. So together, let us pray:

Jesus, when we side with you, we side with all who threaten the status quo.

When we refuse the call to see others' struggles as our own, we abandon our kin to shoulder their crosses alone. So, we pray,

O God, embolden us to accept the risks that come with following you—even as we resist the powers and systems that set crosses on our shoulders. Amen.

Fourth Reading

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Criminal on the Cross

Special Music Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Jen Marco, Soloist

Preparing for the Final Reading

We have come to our final reading: Luke's version of Jesus' dying moments. Jesus does not die quietly; he cries out and shouts his last words to the Parent God. After he dies, the crowd of his fellow poor and oppressed Jews make noise too, beating their chests in grief as they leave the scene. The Gospel of Matthew even reports the earth quaking. Before we join Jesus for his last breaths, I want to prepare you for two sensory experiences that will occur in our final reading: First, the last candles will be extinguished, leaving us in near darkness. Second,

there will be several loud sounds during and directly after the reading. The sounds that will happen during the reading are the ripping of fabric, and a loud voice shouting Jesus' last words. After the reading is over—and this is where all of you get involved—we will recreate the crowd's grief and earth's quaking: at that time, please join us in stomping your feet, patting your knees, or any other movements that feel right for your body. Finally, a bell will ring three times; this will signal the time to stop our noise and move into a long moment of silence.

Fifth Reading

Luke 23:44-46, 48

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.

A bell tolls three times. Please be seated if you are standing.

And now, let us sit in the silence of death.

Remain in silence.

Special Music

Calvary

Jen Marco, Soloist

THE TOMB

Closing Litany

After the betrayal, the accusations, the torturous execution, there seemed to be nothing left of Jesus' life's work, his vision of an upside-down kingdom where the last are first. The Empire stomped out his spirit, and that was the end...

...We end tonight in the space between death and resurrection, as the friends and followers of Jesus go home devastated and afraid. We linger with them,

because grief matters. Even when we know a joyful new beginning is soon to come, the grief and pain are still real and deserve to be heard.

SENDING

God Blesses Us and Sends Us in Mission to the World.

To honor the grief of Jesus' friends, his mother, and the poor, whose lives he'd changed, we invite you to take a poem when you exit. I encourage you to take some time on Holy Saturday to read it, and to sit with your own troubles, fears, and griefs as you remember the day that God lay dead in a tomb, accompanying us even into death.

Blessing and Sending

As we leave communal worship to enter deeper into this liminal space between life, death, and life again, go with the knowledge that the Triune God— who fashioned you with love, whose Spirit breathes in and through you, and who shares in our every sorrow and every joy— goes with you, even in doubt, even in death, even to the end of the age. Go in peace, and in silence, to wait with those who wait, and mourn with those who mourn.

Amen.

Worshipers should depart the sanctuary in silence. Worshipers can pick up the poem, “this moment matters” by Avery Arden as they exit.

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GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 18, 2025

Reader A: Jenny Jensen
Reader B: Mark Elstad
Special Music: Jen Marco
Usher: Dannie Gavros
Music Director: Bob Brown
Remote Office Assistant: Brenda Wardle
AV Technicians: Lee Kreutzer
Presiding Minister: Rev. Christine Higuera-Street

Our Life Together Announcements

Easter Service will be at 10:30 am on **Sunday, April 20th**.

Easter Brunch Join us after worship on Easter Sunday, April 20th for our Easter Brunch, hosted by the Council and Endowment & Memorials Committee. There will be a free will offering to benefit the Food Assistance and Emergency Assistance Ministry. There will be ham, quiches, fruit and more to enjoy. Bring your friends and family to church and stay afterwards for this delicious event.

OAKS (Older Adults Knowing Strength) bible study and luncheon. On Tuesday, **April 22nd** at noon. Note that it's being changed to the 3rd Tuesday of the month, since Holy week falls on the second week of the month.

Senior Food Box Distribution Our distribution of USDA food boxes to seniors in our neighborhood continues with our next distribution set for **Wednesday, April 23rd**. Boxes are available for those who meet eligibility guidelines and have signed up through the Utah Food Bank.

Congregation Council Is meeting in-person **April 27th** after worship.

Rally and March on April 27 from 2-5 PM at the Utah State Capitol Building. This is hosted by the Progressive Clergy Coalition of SLC.

Worship & Music meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 5th at 7pm via Zoom.**

The Welcome Table is the theme for the upcoming women of the ELCA UT Conference retreat. We will gather on April 26th, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Salt Lake City. Please join us for this gathering that will offer community building, fun, faith exploration, and prayer. We will also share a meal together. RSVP or ask questions by e-mailing Pastor DanaLee Simon who will be leading this retreat. Her e-mail is sagehillwisdom@gmail.com. The cost is \$25 and can be paid the day of the retreat. Scholarships are available.

Pastor Christine is available by text. Her contact information is 801-215-9208 or 619-459-8879. Emails can be sent to pastor@mttaborslc.org.