**SALT Parish**

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***“Way of the Cross”***

**Good Friday**

**April 18, 2025**

**6:30 pm**

 **SALT Parish**

**First Lutheran Church, Meadowlands**

**Way of the Cross**

**Scriptural Meditations on the Suffering and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Friday, April 18, 2025**

**6:30 pm**

**Welcome**

P: In the name of the + Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen***

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take of their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” *(Matthew 16:24-25)*

P: Let us pray.

***C: Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinful humanity and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that in true devotion we may follow him in the way of the cross and live a life worthy of his love; we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**Opening Song *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*** *vs.1-2* *Hymn #324*

Vs. 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring

 o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of

 sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

Vs. 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes de-

 ceive, and fears annoy, never shall the

 cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

**Station 1: Jesus Is Condemned**

**Matthew 27:20, 22-24**

20Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.

22Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” 23Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

24So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

**Station 2: Jesus’ Cross Is Laid on Him**

**Matthew 27:27-31**

**27**Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. **28**They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, **29**and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **30**They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. **31**After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

***“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”*** *Hymn #325*

Vs. 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
 I want Jesus to walk with me;
 all along my pilgrim journey,
 Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Vs. 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
 in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
 when my heart is almost breaking,
 Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Vs. 3 When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
 when I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
 when my head is bowed in sorrow,
 Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**Station 3: Jesus Meets His Mother**

**John 19:26-27**

26When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” 27Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

**Station 4: Simon of Cyrene Helps Carry the Cross**

**Matthew 27:32 and Luke 9:23**

**Matthew 27:32**

32As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

**Luke 9:23**

**23**Then he said to them all, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

***“Ah, Holy Jesus”***(vs. 1 -3) *Hymn #349*

Vs. 1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that we to

 judge thee have in hate pretended? By foes derided,

 by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Vs. 2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my

 treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus,

 I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

Vs. 3 Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath

 sinned, and the Son hath suffered; for our atonement,

 while we nothing heeded, God interceded.

**Station 5: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem**

**Luke 23:27-29**

**27**A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. **28**But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. **29**For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’

**Station 6: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garment**

**John 19:23-24**

23When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. 24So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

***“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*** *Hymn #351*

Vs. 1 O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
 now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
 O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
 Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

Vs. 2 How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
 how does thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!
 Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;
 mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

Vs. 3 What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
 for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
 Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Vs. 4 Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
 remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
 These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
 for all who die believing die safely in thy love.

**Station 7: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross**

**Mark 15:25-30**

**25**It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. **26**The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” **27**And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. **29**Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, **30**save yourself, and come down from the cross!”

**Station 8: Jesus Dies**

**Luke 23:44-46**

**44**It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, **45**while the sun’s light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. **46**Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last.

**Lord’s Prayer**

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

***“Jesus, Remember Me”*** sing 3 times  *Hymn #616*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

**Extinguish the Christ Candle**

 ***“Were You There”***

*(After a moment of silence you may leave the sanctuary.)*