



*A Congregation of the New England Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Pastor
The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs

Minister of Music
Mijin Choi

Office Administrator
Robin Aldieri

**Good Friday, April 10, 2020
7:00 pm**

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

It Is Finished

Throughout his ministry Jesus turned things on their heads: the last became first, the poor were blessed, the blind could see. In parable and miracle Jesus brought a dominion that was set against the kingdoms of this world. In the circumstances of his death, he did away with the accepted structures of power and weakness, justice and retribution. Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate manifestation of the paradox of the dominion of God: the king who only days before rode triumphantly into the royal city is crucified as a criminal. The Messiah is a suffering servant. The Son of God is willing to die so that we can live.

John's gospel tells the story of how God accomplished, in Jesus, the fulfillment of scriptural prophecy about the one who would bring God's people into reconciliation with God's own self. In the story of the passion, Jesus' inexorable journey toward the cross, which is the culmination of this prophecy, picks up speed. Then, with Jesus' dying breath, the journey is over. With the words "It is finished," Jesus' mission is complete. His passion and his suffering are finished; the centuries-long wait for the Messiah is finished. God's ultimate disruption of our efforts to save ourselves, and the astounding reversal of human expectations, is accomplished.

On this day, as we meditate on the consequences of God's sacrifice, the church proclaims the good news that the cross of Christ is not only necessary, but also sufficient for our salvation. With the command of Maundy Thursday lingering in our ears and hearts, Good Friday reminds us that the freedom to obey Jesus comes as a gift from God through the cross of Christ. At the cross, our old life of captivity to sin is finished, and our new life of discipleship begins.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Washington Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Pastor, The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs

Minister of Music Mijin Choi

April 10, 2020

Good Friday

P Presiding Minister

A Assisting Minister

C Congregation

Welcome! Peace be with you. While the world is addressing the COVID - 19 pandemic, keep your focus on God our Father in heaven who will never leave you nor forsake you. Please do not take any unnecessary risks and wash your hands before you leave your house, when you enter your house, after using the rest room, after touching your face, after touching someone else. Sanitizing your phone is a good idea also. When you feel afraid, pray this prayer to God: "When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." (Psalm 56:3)

If you would like to receive Faith Lutheran Church's monthly newsletters, email the church office at churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org Please visit our website at www.faihelcamiddletown.org for up-to-date information.

For pastoral emergencies, please text or call Pastor Cathy Rohrs (pronounced "roars") at 717-321-6799.

May God bless you and keep you.

Assisting Minister: Lee Kozlowski

Zoom Host: Steve McDermott

The Voice of Innocence

"Have nothing to do with that righteous man..."

Matthew 27:19

Opening Statements and Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit,

C Amen.

P In the words of Psalm 140: Deliver me, O LORD, from evildoers; protect me from those who are violent,

C who plan evil things in their minds and stir up wars continually.

P They make their tongue sharp as a snake's, and under their lips is the venom of vipers.

C Guard me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; protect me from the violent who have planned my downfall.

P The arrogant have hidden a trap for me, and with cords they have spread a net, along the road they have set snares for me.

C I say to the Lord, "You are my God; give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my supplications!"

P O Lord, my Lord, my strong deliverer, you have covered my head in the day of battle.

C I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor.

P Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name;

C the upright shall live in your presence.

Gathering Hymn: *"When I Survey the Wonderous Cross"* ELW #803

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Confession

- P Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression?
He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in love,
- C He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.**
- P Confident that our God is gracious and forgiving, let us confess our sins.
- C O Lord, I have worried about your provision for me. I have been greedy for material things. I have sought power and glory at the expense of others. I have ignored your Word, though I know what it says. I have avoided the hard road of righteousness and taken the easy road of sin. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

- P Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4

- ¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
- ³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- A Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:1-18

- ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- ²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**
- ³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴**Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.**
- ⁵They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- ⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- ⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.
- ⁸**“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.

¹²**Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

¹³They open wide their jaws at me,
like a slashing and roaring lion.

¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my
mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.

¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.**

¹⁷I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

¹⁸**They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.**

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that?
But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's
approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for
you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.
²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When he
was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten;
but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our
sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for
righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going
astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of
your souls.

A Word of God, word of life. **C Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 27:19-26

¹⁹ While [Pilate] was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,
"Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great
deal because of a dream about him." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders
persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The
governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release
for you?" And they said, Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what
should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let
him be crucified!" ²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they
shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" ²⁴ So 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." ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His
blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them;
and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

P Here ends the Gospel.

C Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn:

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

ELW #349

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

4 For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

5 Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

The Offering

Please drop off your offering in the locked black church mailbox, mail your offering to the church, give from your online banking app, or go to our website www.faithelcamiddletown.org to donate by clicking on the “donate here” button.

Special Music during Offering

The Seven Last Words

(Responses, ELW #616)

The First Word

A “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

**C Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

The Second Word

A “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**C Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

The Third Word

A “Woman, behold your son! ... Behold your mother!”

**C Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

The Fourth Word

A “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

**C Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

The Fifth Word

A “I thirst!”

**C Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

The Sixth Word

A “It is finished!”

**C Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

The Seventh Word

A “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

**C Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

Sending Hymn: *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"* ELW #351

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

*Please depart in Silence.
The service continues on Easter Sunday.*

By Don Neidigk. Prayers and Good Friday children's sermon by Mark Zimmermann. Art by Sally Beck. © 2012 by Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

LENTEN WORSHIP AT 7:00 PM

Like a courtroom drama, a series of witnesses comes forward to give testimony about their experiences with the accused—Jesus Christ. Through their accounts we come to know the truth, that Jesus came to take our place in the defendant’s chair. Services include dramatic monologues, thematic hymns, prayers and children’s messages that bear evidence to the fact that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday: February 26	The Voice of Satan
Week 1: March 4	The Voice of Judas
Week 2: March 11	The Voice of Annas
Week 3: March 18	The Voice of Caiaphas
Week 4: March 25	The Voice of Peter
Week 5: April 1	The Voice of Herod
Palm Sunday, April 5	Palm/Passion story from Matthew
Maundy Thursday, April 9	The Voice of Pilot
Good Friday, April 10	The Voice of Innocence
Holy Saturday, April 11	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday, April 12	The Voice of the Tomb

Purpose of Faith Lutheran Church

God’s purpose for our new church is to unite unconditionally, sharing God’s love through our growing faith and mission with everyone in the name of Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles of Faith Lutheran Church

- Committed to serve
- Forward thinking, future oriented
- Welcoming
- Guided by faith
- Fun, relevant, cool—a place people want to be

Our Church’s Strategic Direction

*Addressing Hunger in Middletown;
Sharing Knowledge;
Serving & Empowering Youth & Seniors;
How? Coordinating assets in our Community to meet needs; and
Communicating about resources & events.*

Contact Information

Website: www.faithelcamiddletown.org

Church Phone: (860) 347-6068

Church Email: churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org

The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs, Pastor

Please call or text Pastor Rohrs - cell phone: (717) 321-6799 or
email: pastorcathyrohrs@gmail.com