

What is Good Friday?

Good Friday is set aside for Christians to remember and mourn Jesus's death. It was on this day that religious leaders arrested Jesus for claiming to be the son of God and King of the Jews, as the biblical story goes. The leaders sentenced Jesus to crucifixion, the highest form of criminal punishment at the time, for his teachings. Jesus was then beaten, forced to carry a heavy wooden cross through jeering crowds, and finally nailed to the cross by his wrists and feet where he hung until he died.

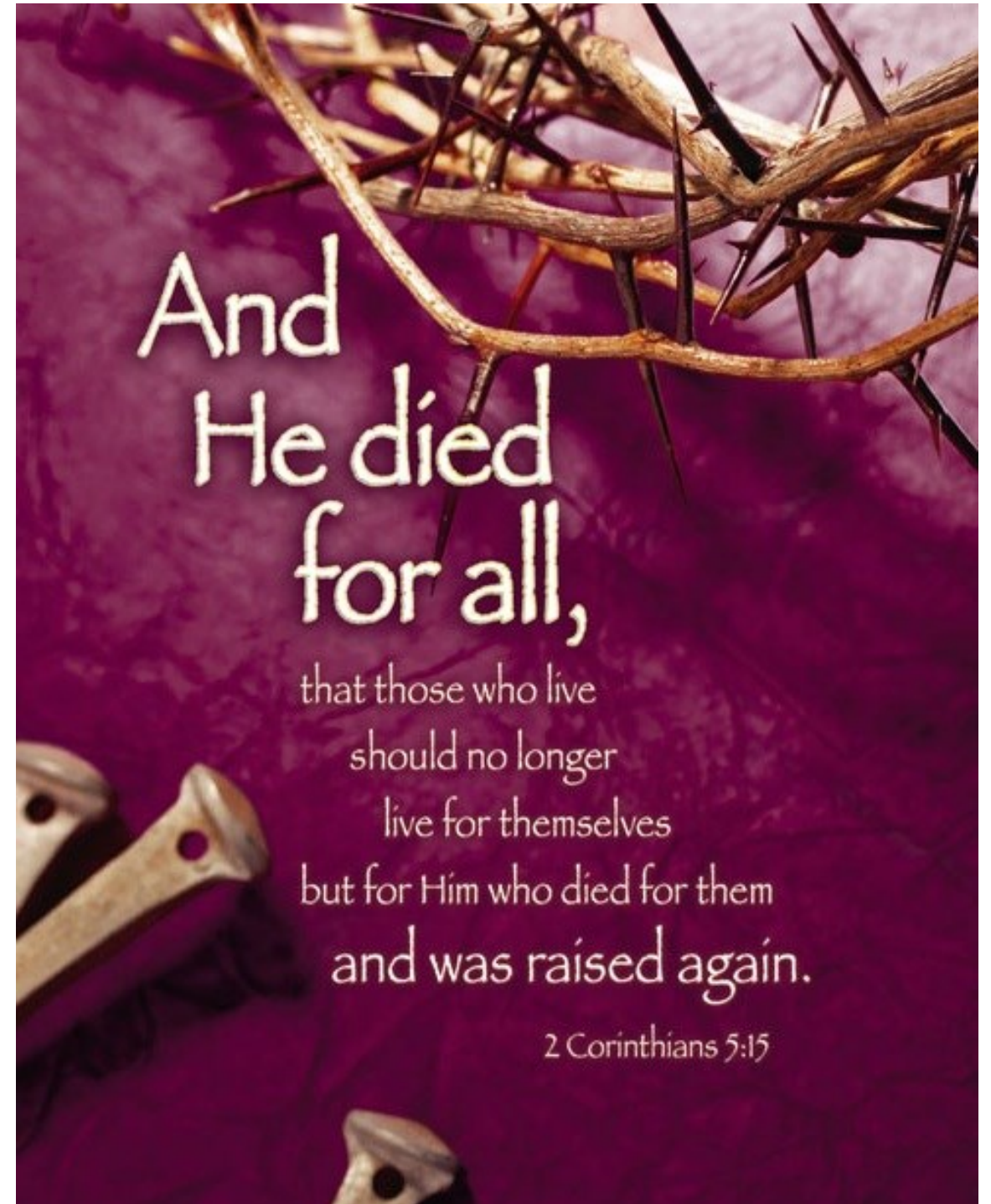
How is Good Friday Observed?

Good Friday is a day for somber reflection. Each Friday before Easter, Christians solemnly honor the way Jesus suffered and died for their sins. They might attend a service that recounts Jesus's painful crucifixion, and some even refrain from eating to show their sorrow. Churches strip their altars bare and muffle their bells as a sign of mourning.

Our Old Rugged Cross

We thank Mr. Bruce Benson (Swede) from Sanborn MN for our cross. A gift given to Pastor Dorie and her new church (Luverne UMC) in 2013. It is filled with a tender story, a great witness and much love. We cherish it immensely and share our love for Jesus with every season.

Please hold Swede in prayer as he fights Parkinson's Disease in a New Ulm nursing home following a life of selfless witnessing for Jesus.



Luverne UMC and First Presbyterian Good Friday Worship Service
Pastor Dorie Hall ~ Pastor Steve Voris ~ April 18, 2025 ~ 7pm

PRELUDE

GATHERING IN SILENCE

On Good Friday, we reflect and meditate on the meaning of the cross as we remember what happened so long ago. We recall Jesus' own personal sacrifice for our salvation and we have the opportunity to experience once again, his own transforming love for us as we live and love in the community of God's own people.

Please embrace the surroundings of this night and weekend. Allow yourself to meditate on all that God is placing in your path to help you experience the depth of His love. As you participate in the Ceremony of the Nails and leave in silence, remember that what we deserve, Christ carried for us.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN *"What Wonderful Love Is This?"* #292 UMH

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN *"Were You There?"* #288 UMH

CALL TO WORSHIP, *responsibly*

L: May the Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: Today, we gather in remembrance.

C: We gather as people who recognize their need for a Savior.

L: We worship the king who humbled himself in obedience to death.

C: We cry out to Jesus, who loved us even in our sin.

L: We sing to the one who took our place.

C: We raise our hands to the God who allowed his son to die, so that we could always live.

L: Tonight we gather in remembrance -

C: With deep gratitude and love for our beautiful Savior. Amen.

CHOIR SINGS *"Blessed Redeemer"* PROJECTED

CALL TO CONFESSION, *in unison,*

Holy is this day, and holy are you, O God. Thank you for the sanctity of this day. Let us know the name of its special challenge. If there be vinegar for us to drink, turn it back to wine. Sweeten our trouble. Be close when we have to live the sourness. But don't let it sour or deaden us. Wake us up to the struggle of everyday life. Let us remember the best day of our lives, the day we first found you. Be with us here, now, in the holiness of this time. Amen.

PRAISE TEAM *"How Deep the Father's Love for Us."* PROJECTED

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION WITH SCRIPTURE John 20:1-8
Page 1087 NIV

SPECIAL VIDEO: THE STORY AS TOLD FROM THE GOSPEL
Watch The Lamb

PRAISE TEAM *"At the Cross"* PROJECTED

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

BLESSING OF THIS TIME, *responsively*

L: Carry with you the weight of Jesus' dying, for there is no Easter apart from suffering.

C: Christ was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities.

L: What does Jesus' death mean for our own lives? Are we freed from our bondage to sin?

C: A weight has been lifted from us; we can walk without fear in fullness of life.

L: As our ancestors looked to God for deliverance, we too, trust God, even in this dark hour.

C: From Jesus we have learned trust and obedience, even in times of suffering and death. Amen.

CEREMONY OF THE NAILS

You are asked at this point, to take your nail and approach the cross. As you do, think of all the ways you are a part of this moment in the life of Jesus. At the appropriate time, place your nail on the cross. Remember that Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice on that cross for us, to make us whole, to heal us, to offer us salvation.

After placing your nail, please leave the church in quiet and reflect this weekend until we come celebrate the Resurrection on Easter morning.

DISMISSAL IN SILENCE 3