

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.

Luverne UMC Good Friday Worship Service
April 2, 2021
Pastor Dorie Hall

PRELUDE

HYMN *"How Deep is the Father's Love For Us"* PRAISE TEAM

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP, *responsibly*

L: May the Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: We who have known failure and defeat are summoned to walk with Jesus to Calvary.

C: We who face weakness and temptation gather in the name of one who overcame them.

L: It is hard to recognize the bearer of sorrows who was wounded for our transgressions.

C: Yet we seek salvation in one despised, rejected, from whom there came no violence or deceit.

L: Let us come believing what we have heard and acting on what has been revealed to us.

C: We trust Christ to deliver and save us, to teach us obedience and faithfulness.

L: Praise be to God.

C: Amen.

HYMN *"Blessed Redeemer"* PRAISE TEAM

UNISON PRAYER

When we feel alone and forgotten, we remember, Lord, that your chosen one felt the depths of grief and despair. Despised, rejected, spat upon, and scorned, Jesus continued to trust you and believe in the mission you prescribed. As we gather to remember, we seek the faith that triumphed over every adversity. In Jesus name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Isaiah 52:13 to Isaiah 53:12

HYMN *"O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done"* #287 UMH

MEDITATION

INTRODUCTION TO OUR NAILS

CEREMONY OF THE NAILS WITH SPECIAL MUSIC BY ANISSA VIS

TIME FOR REFLECTION

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

HYMN *"Were You There"* #288 UMH

CLOSING BLESSING, *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.

BENEDICTION

As we leave here in silence, let us remember that what we deserve, Christ carried for us. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to make us whole, to heal us, to offer us salvation. Reflect this weekend until we are brought together again at the resurrection. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL IN SILENCE

~ *"And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."* ~

2 Corinthians 5:15