

Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church

Good Friday April 3, 2026

In-person worship service: 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter
Live streamed at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook: "St Peter Lutheran Church" and
YouTube: "St Peters Lutheran Church, Rockwell, IA"

Gather in Silence

Gathering Hymn: ELW #801 "Change My Heart, O God"

Change My Heart, O God

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time. It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The first line is marked 'Refrain' and the fourth line is marked 'Refrain'. The second line ends with 'End'. The music features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the third and fourth lines.

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
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Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin. The servant pours himself out to death and is numbered with the transgressors, images that the early church saw as important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his
appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of
him;

for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry
ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted
with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised,
and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are
healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is
silent, so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his
future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the
transgression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb
with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his
mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make
his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his
knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil
with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with
the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the
transgressors.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 18:28--19:42 (Please stay seated)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John the 18th chapter. The congregation is invited to join in reading the parts in bold print out loud.

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, **"What accusation do you bring against this man?"** ³⁰They answered, **"If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."** ³¹Pilate said to them, **"Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."** The Jews replied, **"We are not permitted to put anyone to death."** ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, **"Are you the King of the Jews?"** ³⁴Jesus answered, **"Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"** ³⁵Pilate replied, **"I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"** ³⁶Jesus answered, **"My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."** ³⁷Pilate asked him, **"So you are a king?"** Jesus answered, **"You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."** ³⁸Pilate asked him, **"What is truth?"**

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, **"I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"** ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, **"Not this man, but Barabbas!"** Now Barabbas was a bandit.

^{19:1}Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, **"Hail, King of the Jews!"** and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, **"Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him."** ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, **"Here is the man!"** ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, **"Crucify him! Crucify him!"** Pilate said to them, **"Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him."** ⁷The Jews answered him, **"We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."**

⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, **“Where are you from?”** But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, **“Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?”** ¹¹Jesus answered him, **“You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”** ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, **“If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”**

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, **“Here is your King!”** ¹⁵They cried out, **“Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”** Pilate asked them, **“Shall I crucify your King?”** The chief priests answered, **“We have no king but the emperor.”** ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, **“Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”** ²²Pilate answered, **“What I have written I have written.”** 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.” ²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 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.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), **“I am thirsty.”** ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, **“It is finished.”** Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Passion Reflection

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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: ELW# 353 "Were You There"

Were You There



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual

Sending: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
Let us now depart in silence.

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