Good Friday April 2, 2021



***First Lutheran Church***

***208 West Sandusky Avenue***

***Bellefontaine, Ohio***

***(937) 592-7699***

***Pastor Lawrence J. Novak***

[*www.flcbellefontaine.org*](http://www.flcbellefontaine.org)

*Mission Statement:*

*Sharing God’s grace through prayer, witness, and service.*

Good Friday Service

*“Good Friday Litany”*

April 2, 2021

7:00 pm

***Silent Procession***

*Please Stand*

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

**C: Amen**

P: A Reading from *Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12* ***Pastor Larry Novak***

**Chapter 52:** 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.

**Chapter 53:** 1Who 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.

*Please Be Seated*

*Special Music “Via Dolorosa” Georgia Voorhies, Soloist*

**The First Reading**

**Jesus prays in the Garden**

**Mark 14: 27-42**

27And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,  
 'I will strike the shepherd,  
 and the sheep will be scattered.'  
28But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." 29Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." 30Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." 31But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.  
32They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." 35And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." 37He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? 38Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. 41He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

*SILENT MEDITATION*

Prayer:

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna along the way. I saved you from the time of

trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

“*When You Prayed Beneath the Trees" Carolyn and Larry Novak, Vocal Duet*

*First Candle Extinguished*

**The Second Reading**

**The betrayal and arrest of Jesus**

**Mark 14:43-52**

43Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. 44Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. 47But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 48Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? 49Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." 50All of them deserted him and fled.  
51A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, 52but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

SILENT MEDITATION

Prayer:

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I was faithful to you even when you left me to worship false idols, but now you betray me with a kiss. I gave you my peace, but now you come for me with swords and clubs, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

“*My Savior and My God” Chris Tillman, Vocal Solo*

*Second Candle Extinguished*

**The Third Reading**

**Jesus before the council**

**Mark 14: 53-65**

53They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. 54Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. 55Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. 56For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. 57Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 58We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.' 59But even on this point their testimony did not agree. 60Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" 61But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62Jesus said, "I am; and  
 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,'  
 and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" 63Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? 64You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. 65Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

*SILENT MEDITATION*

Prayer:

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I am the way, the truth, and the life, but you bring false charges against me, and condemn me to death, even

though I am innocent. I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt; and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

*“Go to Dark Gethsemane” Cindy Weikart, Stephani Oaks, Brenda Shively, and Cheri Comstock – Bell Quartet*

*Third Candle Extinguished*

**The Fourth Reading**

**Peter denies Jesus**

**Mark 14:66-72**

66While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. 67When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." 68But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. 69And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." 70But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." 71But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." 72At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

SILENT MEDITATION

Prayer:

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I came to you in the least of your brothers and sister. But I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty, and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. I chose you to be my disciple, but now you deny that you even know me; and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

“*Jesus Remember Me” Jan Van Hoose, Brenda Shively, Chris Tillman, Chris Hildreth Blair – Vocal Quartet*

*Fourth Candle Extinguished*

**The Fifth Reading**

**Jesus before Pilate**

**Mark 15:1-15**

1As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." 3Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.  
6Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. 7Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. 8So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. 9Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 10For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. 12Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" 13They shouted back, "Crucify him!" 14Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" 15So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

*SILENT MEDITATION*

PRAYER:

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

“*O Sacred Head Now Wounded” Cindy Weikart, Dulcimer*

*Fifth Candle Extinguished*

**The Sixth Reading**

**The Crucifixion of Jesus**

**Mark 15:16-32**

16Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. 17And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. 18And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. 20After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.  
21They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. 22Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). 23And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. 24And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.  
25It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." 27And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.  
29Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30save yourself, and come down from the cross!" 31In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. 32Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

*SILENT MEDITATION*

Prayer:

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns. I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me up on a cross; the cross you prepared for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

*“Jesus Died Alone” Kris Shannon, Vocal Solo*

*Sixth Candle Extinguished*

**The Seventh Reading**

**The Death of Jesus**

**Mark 15: 33-41**

33When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"  
35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." 36And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." 37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"  
40There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

*SILENT MEDITATION*

***Sermon: Pastor Larry Novak***

Prayer:

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I poured out saving water from a rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink. I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

*Seventh Candle Extinguished*

Epilog- The Burial of Jesus: ***Pastor Larry Novak***

Mark 15:42-47

42When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, 43Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. 45When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. 46Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. 47Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

The Christ Candle is removed . . .

*As the Christ Candle is removed, the “Strepitus” is heard; a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb.*

*“Were You There” David Vassar, Vocal S*olo

*Please Stand*

Lord’s Prayer

P: The Lord Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

**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**

*The Christ candle is brought back into our presence as a reminder of the promise of God’s eternal love.*

***As the lights are brought up, you are asked to leave in silence – row by row starting from the front following the Pastor as the bell toll sounds anticipating the joys of Easter, while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday.***

*Participants in Tonight’s Service*

*Worship Leader Pastor Larry Novak*

*Greeter Carl and Rachel Gillespie*

*Acolyte Jennifer McKenrick*

*Reader Dan Shively*

*Altar Guild Cindy Weikart*

*Usher Kevin Miller*

*Organist & Choir Director: Judy Vassar*

*Music: Georgia Voorhies, Soloist*

*Carolyn and Larry Novak, Vocal Duet*

*Chris Tillman, Vocal Solo*

*Cindy Weikart, Stephanie Oaks, Brenda Shively, Cheri Comstock*

*Bell Quartet Jan Van Hoose, Brenda Shively, Chris Tillman, Chris Hildreth-Blair*

*Vocal Quartet*

*Cindy Weikart, Dulcimer*

*Kris Shannon, Vocal Solo*

*David Vassar, Vocal Solo*

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