

April 3, 2026 ~ Good Friday

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH of NAVARINO

"Joyfully, we invite and equip all people to share Christ's love"



Prelude for Meditation

Welcome

A Responsive Reading from Matthew 21:33-45

P: On this holy day the Son of God is the stone that the builders rejected.

C: He has become the cornerstone.

P: On this holy day the Son of God is thrown out of the vineyard and killed.

C: He has become the sacrifice.

P: On this holy day the Son of God becomes sin for us so that we would become the righteousness of God.

C: The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: Jesus said, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?"

C: The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: Jesus said, "Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed."

C: Grant me your grace, O God, that my faith in Jesus would be pleasing and acceptable to you.

Song

"Once Again"

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Today we remember that it is our sin that nailed Jesus to the tree of the cross. His suffering and death are the result of the evil we confess before him, begging for the forgiveness that he won for us.

(Time for Personal Reflection and Confession)

P: I invite you to join me as we confess our sins to God our Father. Most merciful God...

C: We confess that our very nature is sinful. We do not love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We do not love our neighbors as ourselves. We are simply tenants in your world, and with our sinful thoughts, words and deeds we brazenly say, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance." On this dark day we beg your grace-filled pardon. Forgive us, most holy God.

P: At the cross of Calvary, Jesus Christ became sin for you. He bore all of your sinfulness in his body on the tree. By his wounds you are healed of the disease of sin and by his grace you are made whole once again. Because of his perfect sacrifice, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Song ***“The Old Rugged Cross”***

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.

Bible Readings Isaiah 52:13-53:12
 Psalm 22:1-8
 Romans 5:6-11
 Mark 15:33-47

Message *by Pastor Sabin*

Song ***“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”***

Lord’s Prayer - 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.

P: You may be seated. In a few moments, the candles will be extinguished and the lights will be dimmed. The extinguishing of the candles is symbolic of the flight of the disciples, the approach of darkness, the hatred of Jesus’ enemies, and the resentment of the world, leading to the final isolation of Jesus on the cross. The moment of darkness recalls the hours of Jesus on the cross, His hopelessness, His death.

P: In the darkness tonight, the solo “Were You There” will be sung. For a few moments, the church will remain in total darkness. Then, the Christ candle will be lit. The lighting of the Christ Candle points ahead to the Easter soon to dawn. You are invited to remain for a time of personal reflection as long as you’d like. Once the lights are turned on, please leave in silence.

Extinguishing Of The Candles

Solo ***“Were You There”***

Lighting of the Christ Candle (*Depart in silence*)

****Please place your offering in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary as you enter or exit.****