

St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

Houghton Lake, Michigan

Paul G. Kruse, Pastor

Memorial Service for



Jesus of Nazareth

April 4, 2026

Born – Christmas Day

Baptized – by John the Baptist in the Jordan River

Confirmed – Transfiguration Day

Entered his Eternal Rest – Good Friday afternoon

Prelude

Instrumental "Blessed Redeemer"

Opening Song

Abide with Me *LSB 878 vs 1-2*

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Invocation

☩ In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Remembrance of Baptism

☩ In Holy Baptism, Jesus was clothed with the robe of our unrighteousness and was covered with all of our sins. In Romans Chapter 6, St. Paul says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

☩ **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.**

Prayer

☩ Let us pray... Almighty and most merciful God, you bring us through suffering and death with our Lord Jesus Christ to enter with him into glory. Grant us grace at all times to acknowledge and accept your holy and gracious will, to remain in true faith, and to find peace and joy in the resurrection of the dead and the glory of everlasting life,

☩ **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?² For 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, and no beauty that we should desire him.³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

℣ This is the Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 6:37-40

³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

℣ This is the Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Song

Abide with Me *LSB 878 vs 3-4*

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Sermon

Prayer

Apostles' Creed

LSB 279

℣ God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☩ **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Psalm 23

The LORD Is My Shepherd / A Psalm of David.

Prayer

☒ Let us pray... Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☒ Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold 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.**

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Closing Song

“Abide with Me” LSB 878 vs 5-6

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

Text: Public domain

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Benediction

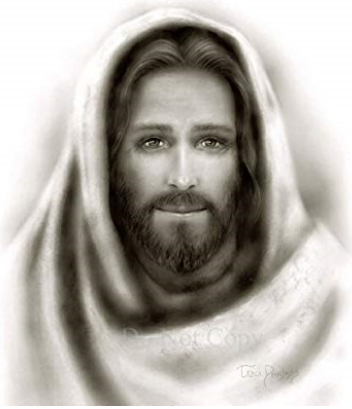
- ☩ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
- ☩ **Amen.**

The congregation is asked to leave in silence.

Acknowledgments

Music by the Praise Team

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Jesus of Nazareth went to be with God on Friday afternoon at the age of 33. He died as a result of crucifixion in Jerusalem after a long battle with the sin of the world. The Son of God and of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, he was born on the first Christmas Day in Bethlehem of Judea. He was raised by his mother and his step-father Joseph the Carpenter. He was a lifelong active member in the Jewish faith. Jesus

worked and learned the carpentry trade with his step-father, but then also went on to work as a teacher, prophet, and Messiah. He enjoyed fishing, walking, doing miracles, and telling parables. He especially enjoyed spending time with his disciples and those in need of healing. He was the Cornerstone to the Christian faith and many continue to follow him today. He never married or had any children, but created all of humankind to be his children.

Left behind to cherish his memories are his mother Mary, eleven special apostles, Lazarus whom he raised from the dead, and many others who followed him. In addition to his step-father Joseph, he was also preceded in death by his disciple Judas, who betrayed him. Funeral Services will take place on Holy Saturday. Due to the circumstances of his death, it will be a closed casket. Private committal and interment will take place later at the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. The family and friends will be hiding from public view until further notice. A funeral luncheon will be provided this coming Sunday.

In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of memory may wish to consider living as he did. Donations may be made to St. John Lutheran Church or anyone that may be in need.