

The Little Church on the Prairie
Good Friday Service
April 3, 2026 | 7:00 pm
Worship Leader: Richard Coppin

Gathering Music

Debra Leach

Welcome

Pastor Brad Epperson

Prelude

“*Meditation from Thaïs*”
by Jules Massenet

Violin-Padua Canty
Piano-Debra Leach

*Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.”

People: Just as Jesus loves us, we are also to love one another.

Leader: On this night long ago, Jesus gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

People: Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross.

All: He was the Lamb of God, holy and sinless.

*Prayer

Hymn, No. 210 (vs. 1&4)
“*Jesus Paid It All*”

Narration:

Leader: After their last meal together, Jesus went with his disciples to Gethsemane. “Sit here,” he told them, “While I go over there to pray.” He took James and John with him, telling them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

People: With his face to the ground, Jesus prayed, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet, I want your will to be done, not mine.”

Hymn, No. 183 (vs. 1&3)
“*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*”

Leader: In Gethsemane, they came to arrest him. Jesus was bound and led away. They took him to the home of the high priest. All the leading priests were there seeking witnesses who would lie about him so that they could put him to death.

People: Then they turned him over to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate had Jesus whipped then turned him over to be crucified.

Choir Anthem

Arise, My Soul, Arise
Arr. By Dan Forrest

Accompanied by Padua Canty, Violin & Debra Leach, Piano

Leader: Beaten, bloody, and exhausted, Jesus was made to carry his cross. He staggered under its weight.

People: Along with the weight of the cross, he bore the weight of sin.

Leader: Whose sin?

All: Jesus bore the weight of my sin.

Hymn, No. 185

“*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*”

Leader: The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. They placed a sign above his head saying, “This is the King of the Jews.”

People: The people passing by shouted abuse. The priests and teachers of the law also mocked him.

Hymn, No. 181 (vs. 1&2)

“*Were You There*”

*Prayer of Confession

People: Abba, Father, we seek your forgiveness. We ignore the prompting of your Holy Spirit who speaks to us of our sin; we push ahead doing what we want to do. We seek our good above all others. We indulge our greed for more – more things, more money, more honor, more of everything.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you

Hymn, No 186 (vs.1&3)
"The Old Rugged Cross"

Prayer

"The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.*

Narration:

Leader: Darkness fell across the whole land at noon. Around 3:00 P.M. Jesus called out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" In a few minutes, Jesus called out again and yielded up his spirit.

People: The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened.

Good Friday Meditation, Pastor Brad Epperson

*Depart in Silence

**Please Stand*



Good Friday

"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."
With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."
-John 19:30 (NIV)