



Good Friday

April 03, 2026, at noon
St. John's Episcopal Church
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

On this day the ministers enter in silence.

All then kneel for silent prayer, after which the Celebrant stands and begins with an acclamation and the Collect of the Day.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be our God.

People **For ever and ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 22 (*Alternate verses with the lector*)

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?

²**O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

⁴**Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

- ⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- ⁸**“He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”**
- ⁹Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.
- ¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.
- ¹²**Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**
- ¹³They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- ¹⁴**I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**
- ¹⁵My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- ¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet,
I can count all my bones.**
- ¹⁷They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.
- ¹⁸**Be not far away, O LORD; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.**
- ¹⁹Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.
- ²⁰**Save me from the lion’s mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.**

- ²¹I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- ²²**Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.**
- ²³For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- ²⁴**My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.**
- ²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
“May your heart live for ever!”
- ²⁶**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**
- ²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- ²⁸**To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.**
- ²⁹My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- ³⁰**They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PASSION GOSPEL: John 19:1--42

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

^{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.”²⁹ A 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.³⁰ When 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.³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.³⁴ Instead, 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.)³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.”³⁷ And 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.³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.⁴¹ Now 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.⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

THE SERMON

Pastor David Sickelka, UCC

THE SOLEMN COLLECTS

All stand or kneel, as you are able.

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service

For all bishops and other ministers

and the people whom they serve

For our Standing Committee and all the people of this diocese

For all Christians in this community

For those about to be baptized, especially Juliet and Garrett

That God will confirm the Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Donald, the President of the United States

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations

For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the Jewish people, who by the grace of their eternal covenant with God were delivered from bondage into freedom;

For their continued faithfulness;

For their flourishing in peace as witnesses to God's sustaining love;

For their safety from all malice and harm;

For their liberation from all forms of antisemitism and hatred;

For the fullness of redemption for the sake of God's Name.

That unity and concord may exist between Jews and

Christians, in obedience to God's will.

Silence

O God of Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, you planted your people Israel as the root and grafted all peoples as wild branches into a single olive tree of praise to you:

As we come near to the cross,

we lament Christian acts of prejudice and violence against your faithful people, of whom Jesus Christ was born.

Bless the children of your covenant, so that together we may attain the fullness of your blessing for the world. *Amen.*

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For those who are hungry and homeless, destitute and the oppressed;

For those who are ill or disabled, in body, mind, or spirit;

For those who are lonely, fearful, or anguished;

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair;

For those who are sorrowful and bereaved;

*For those who are prisoners, refugees, and captives;
For those who are victims of war, genocide, and trafficking, and all
those in mortal danger;
For those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ;
That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the
knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister
to their needs.*

Silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Let us pray for all who have not embraced God's redemptive love;

*For those who have never heard the word of salvation;
For those who have lost their faith;
For those hardened by sin or indifference;
For the contemptuous and the scornful;
For those who in the name of religion have persecuted others;
That God will open their hearts to the truth,
and lead them to faith and obedience.*

Silence

Merciful God, the source of life and fountain of mercy, let the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ be preached with grace and love; turn the hearts of the followers of Jesus who have harmed others in his name; lead all to repentance and amendment of life, and sustain by your loving grace all who lift their eyes to you. ***Amen.***

Let us commit ourselves to God;

For the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

A wooden cross may now be brought into the church and placed in the sight of all the people. Those who wish may come forward to reverence the cross in some way during the singing of "Were you there?"

ANTHEMS *(Recited)*

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
***and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross
joy has come to the whole world.***

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.
***We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

FINAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

We depart in silence. There is no dismissal.

+++++++

+++++

Holy Week Schedule:

Good Friday – 3PM – *Stations of the Cross*

Easter Vigil – 8PM – *Great Vigil of Easter – lighting of the New Fire*
Baptism of Juliet and Garrett Johnson

Easter Day – 10AM – *Holy Eucharist*

+++++

Serving Today:

Lectors: Brenda Rau, Sr. Linda-Susan Beard **Prayers:** Pat Thurston
Presider: Rev. Jess Hart **Homilist:** Pastor David Sickelka, UCC
Vocalist: Victoria Offutt

St. John's Episcopal Church

206 West Maple Street

Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

989.773.7448

E-mail: saintjohnsmp@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com

The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec, Rector

The Rev. Jessica A Hart, Assistant Priest

Dan Eichinger, Senior Warden

Clancy DeLong, Treasurer

St. John's Episcopal Church is a parish of the

Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

The Episcopal Church

The Most Rev. Dr. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop

The Worldwide Anglican Communion

The Most Rev. Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury

From riteplanning.com.

Copyright © 2026 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

All music is reprinted with permission. Print and Streaming: OneLicense.net

license # A-727547, CCLI #3146185

Prayers are taken or adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching our Worship, the Book of Occasional Services 2018, and the New Zealand Prayer Book