

New Hope Lutheran Church

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April 10, 2020
Good Friday

ALL EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

Please remember to send in your offering.
*We now have a **donate button** on our web site nhlc.ca*

*The office is closed, but phone messages and email are
being checked regularly.*

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; we ask this in the name of Jesus who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Aline, Fred, Pentti, Esme, Martha, Derek, Maria and Kai.

First Reading Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

52:13 See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. **14** Just as there were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness— **15** so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand. **53:1** Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? **2** He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. **3** He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. **4** Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. **5** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. **6** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **7** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. **8** By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. **9** He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. **10** Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. **11** After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. **12** Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was

numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 22

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? **2** My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. **3** Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. **4** In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. **5** To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. **6** But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. **7** All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. **8** "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." **9** Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. **10** From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. **11** Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. **12** Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. **13** Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. **14** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. **15** My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. **16** Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. **17** All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. **18** They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. **19** But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. **20** Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. **21** Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. **22** I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. **23** You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! **24** For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. **25** From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. **26**

The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him— may your hearts live forever! **27** All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, **28** for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. **29** All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him— those who cannot keep themselves alive. **30** Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. **31** They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

Second Reading Hebrews 10:16 – 25

16 “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” **17** Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” **18** And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. **19** Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Gospel John 18:1 – 19:42

18:1 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. **3** So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. **4** Jesus,

knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?” **5** “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) **6** When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. **7** Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?” “Jesus of Nazareth,” they said. **8** Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” **9** This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.” **10** Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) **11** Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?” **12** Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him **13** and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. **14** Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people. **15** Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard, **16** but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. **17** “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.” **18** It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself. **19** Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. **20** “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. **21** Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” **22** When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. **23** “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” **24** Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. **25** Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples

too, are you?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.” **26** One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” **27** Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow. **28** Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. **29** So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” **30** “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” **31** Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. **32** This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. **33** Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” **34** “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked “or did others talk to you about me?” **35** “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” **36** Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” **37** “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” **38** “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. **39** But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews?’” **40** They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising. **19:1** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. **2** The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe **3** and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face. **4** Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” **5** When Jesus came out wearing the crown of

thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" **6** As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." **7** The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." **8** When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, **9** and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. **10** "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" **11** Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." **12** From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." **13** When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). **14** It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. **15** But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. **16** Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. **17** Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). **18** There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. **19** Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. **20** Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. **21** The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." **22** Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." **23** When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. **24** "Let's not tear it,"

they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." So this is what the soldiers did. **25** Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," **27** and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. **28** Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." **29** A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. **30** When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. **31** Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. **32** The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. **33** But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. **34** Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. **35** The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. **36** These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," **37** and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced." **38** Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. **39** He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. **40** Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. **41** At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the

garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. **42** Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

April 10, 2020 – Good Friday "We Are Not Alone"

As the numbers of people infected with the COVID-19 virus rises, and as we watch the death toll grow, it has probably struck us just how dangerous this virus is to our entire world population. During such an event, it's not easy to sit on the sidelines, because our senses tell us that – in an emergency – we should be on the move. We mobilize, we do something, anything. But in this case, we are called upon to do one of the most difficult things of all – to stay home and do nothing.

It's also difficult if we have loved ones who are front line workers; those who directly deal with exposure to the virus. We worry about them and their health. While phone calls and other ways of communicating are possible, we still long to hug and hold them and know beyond a doubt that they are safe, but that is impossible because we are to remain isolated.

It all leaves us with the feeling of helplessness. Beyond caring for ourselves, there is little we can do. We are, in fact, mandated to do nothing. And that can leave us feeling like we're all alone, perhaps even abandoned. While we long for comfort, it may be difficult to find, especially for those who live alone. While the rest of us feel concern for them, it can still be challenging to totally see their situation in the same way they do.

You may have noticed in the past that when we go for comfort to someone who has no experience with our situation, it isn't all that satisfying. Yes, they feel for us. Sure they want to try to understand. But unfortunately there often seems to be something lacking.

In our times of difficulty we find that comfort is more powerful when it comes from someone who knows what it's like. It's not that others don't care or can't be in some way helpful; it's just easier to have a conversation and find

comfort from someone who has been in our shoes of suffering.

On Good Friday we are reminded that Jesus experienced more suffering than most of us can imagine. Jesus understands what it feels like to suffer. Jesus understands the feelings of loneliness, abandonment, pain, and anything else we might experience.

As we work our way through this pandemic, we may well ask ourselves: does God care? Does God understand? We too might also cry along with Jesus: "*My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?*" We too can feel an aloneness like Jesus felt. And sometimes we give up hope. We lose sight of that last flicker of light. How can God understand?

We are the humans in pain! How can God understand that?

And yet, God does understand. God HAS felt this too. God not only watches us in our pain, loneliness and suffering, but also grieves with us. And God can grieve with us because God has also been there! GOD HAS SEEN HIS BELOVED SON DIE! And God has felt the same emotions felt by people around the world.

We know this because God's reaction to Jesus death is recorded. The sky turned dark and stayed that way. The sun stopped shining. At the moment of Jesus death, the thick curtain in the temple was ripped in two! The earth shook, and rocks were split apart. Is that not a reaction to the pain of death? God has been in our shoes and God still stands with us. Yes, God does know what we are going through.

And because we are loved so dearly, God is willing to be there to get us through the trials we endure in these times. Good Friday reminds us we are not alone. Jesus suffered so greatly that there is no suffering he can't understand. So be reminded this Good Friday that we can go to God with our suffering to find love, comfort, and understanding. Amen.

A Confession of Faith

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin

Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, secured and delivered me from all sins, from death, and from the power of evil, not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with his innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Prayers

(a common prayer for Good Friday is the bidding prayer which uses a combination of prayers aloud and silent)

Bidding Prayer

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God, throughout the world, that God the Almighty Father would guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility.

(Silent Prayer)

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of your church. Help it to persevere in faith, to proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the Holy spirit may show them the way of salvation.

(Silent Prayer)

Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, especially in this time of pandemic.

(Silent Prayer)

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We especially ask that your guidance would be upon our Federal, Provincial, and Municipal leaders in this time of crisis. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, and disease.

(Silent Prayer)

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask using the words of The Lords' 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.