

Good Friday, April 3, 2026
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Welcome (*April Mission: Global Health Ministries*)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

Opening Prayer

Bell

Opening Song “Were You There” - CCLI # 29516

V1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

V2

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

V3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

V4

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Confession *From Psalm 51 and Romans 7*

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

Congregation: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do I keep on doing.

(Silence for prayer and reflection)

P: Cleanse me and I will be clean;

C: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen

Song “The Old Rugged Cross” - CCLI # 19722

V1 *On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross
where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

V2 *O that old rugged cross,
so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.*

V3 *In that old rugged cross,
stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.*

V4 *To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.*

Refrain *So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.*

Prayers & 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 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

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12:21-27 (NIV)

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

“Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped.

Gospel Readings: John 1:29, Matthew 27:27-38, John 3:16 (NIV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.

Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

P: The Word of God for the people of God C: Thanks be to God

Message: “*Watch the Lamb*” - Pastor Al Alexander

Announcements

- April Mission: Global Health Ministries - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
 - Tuesdays at 3:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
 - Next class: James 5:7-20
 - Time change to Monday 6:00-7:00 pm starting 4/13/26
- Join Zoar for Easter service at 9:30 am on 4/5/26
- New members class 4/12/26 after church. See Pastor Al
- Soup Supper every Wednesday serving 5:15-6:00 pm
- Zoar is looking for
 - A Sunday School teacher for one or two Sundays a month
 - Contact Linda at 612 817 8045
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Sign up to pray for one of our young people
- Pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread devotional in the Narthex
- To get on the prayer chain - email or call Pastor Al or the church.
- Prayer Requests - Form in seat back; box in Narthex or email Pastor Al
- Sign up for after church treats
- Puzzle exchange - downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lots of puzzles!
- Billy Peterson book - See Pastor Al
- Giving: Box in Narthex, online through our webpage or send a check to the church.

Bell

Depart in Silence

Website: www.zoarchurch.org • Email: zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com • Church Phone: 218-663-7925
Pastor Al Alexander 612-308-2185 • Music provided this evening by Linda Alexander
Offerings can be dropped in the labeled box in the narthex
or by clicking the link “Give” on the zoarchurch.org homepage.