



April 3, 2026

Good Friday

The Woodlands Reformed Church exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the knowledge of the glory of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Good Friday Liturgy

***Invocation**

Psalm 63:1-4

Leader: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

People: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory. Because your
steadfast love is better than life, my lips will
praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in
your name I will lift up my hands.

***Hymn #343**

What Wondrous Love Is This

***Prayer of Adoration**

***The Lord's Prayer**

All: 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.

**Please stand if you are able.*

Corporate Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon

Colossians 2:13-14

Leader: And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

People: Amen!

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: the maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips,

People: and our mouth will declare your praise.

*Please stand if you are able.

Heidelberg Catechism 37, 38

Leader: What do you understand by the word “suffered”?

People: That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race. This he did so that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he might deliver us, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God’s grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

Leader: Why did he suffer “under Pontius Pilate” as judge?

People: So that he, though innocent, might be condemned by a civil judge, and so free us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us.

First Reading

John 18:1-18

Hymn #342 *Stricken, Smitten, & Afflicted (First Stanza)*

Heidelberg Catechism 39, 40

Leader: Is it significant that he was “crucified” rather than dying some other way?

People: Yes. This death convinces me that he shouldered the curse that lay on me, since death by crucifixion was accursed by God.

*Please stand if you are able.

Leader: Why did Christ have to go all the way to death?

People: Because God's justice and truth demand it: nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the Son of God.

Second Reading

John 18:19-40

Hymn #342 *Stricken, Smitten, & Afflicted (Second Stanza)*

Heidelberg Catechism 41, 42

Leader: Why was he "buried"?

People: His burial testifies that he really died.

Leader: Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

People: Our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather, it puts an end to our sinning and is our entrance into eternal life.

Third Reading

John 19:1-27

Hymn #342 *Stricken, Smitten, & Afflicted (Third Stanza)*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Illumination

*Please stand if you are able.

*Scripture Reading

Romans 3:21-26

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Title

Just & Justifier

Hymn #342 *Stricken, Smitten, & Afflicted (Fourth Stanza)*

Heidelberg Catechism 43, 44

Leader: What further advantage do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

People: Through Christ's death our old selves are crucified, put to death, and buried with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer reign in us, but that instead we may dedicate ourselves as an offering of gratitude to him.

Leader: Why does the creed add, "He descended to hell"?

People: To assure me during attacks of deepest dread and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from hellish anguish and torment.

Fourth Reading

John 19:28-42

*Hymn #336

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

*Please stand if you are able.

Just & Justifier:

The Meaning of the Cross

The Cross Reveals God's Justice



Propitiation: The Mercy Seat
Christ's blood covers the broken Law, satisfying God's righteous indignation against evil.



Holiness Demands Judgment
Because God is perfectly just, He cannot overlook sin; it must be punished.



Substitutionary Sacrifice
What the Law required, Christ fulfilled—taking the judgment meant for His people.

The Cross Reveals God's Mercy



Divine Forbearance
God patiently delayed judgment on "former sins," applying mercy until the Cross.



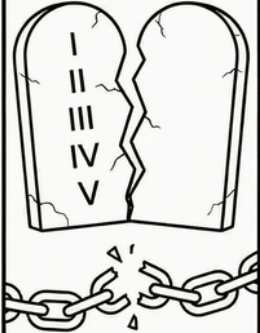
The Just and the Justifier
God is the root of salvation, paying the debt Himself to redeem the guilty.



Faith as a Gift
Righteousness is not earned by works but received through God-given faith in Jesus.

GOD'S JUSTICE

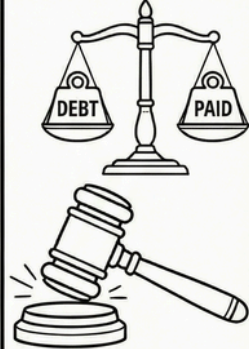
**SIN BREAKS
THE LAW**



**GOD IS
HOLY**



**THE DEBT
IS PAID**



GOD'S MERCY

**GOD'S
GREAT GIFT**



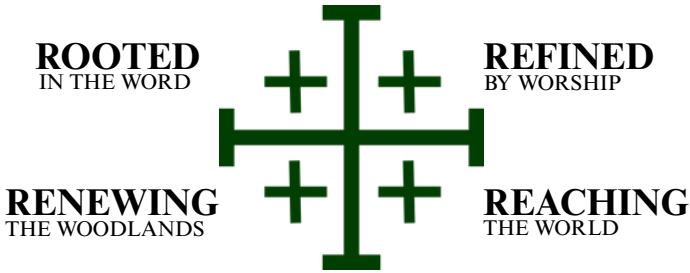
**THE MERCY
SEAT**



**FORGIVEN
BY FAITH**



VISION



The Woodlands Reformed Church envisions a vibrant, Christ-centered community rooted in the truth of God's Word, refined by the worship of the Triune God, renewing The Woodlands through gospel witness, and reaching the world with the hope of Christ.

MISSION

The Woodlands Reformed Church exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the knowledge of the glory of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

MARKERS

Holiness | History | Hospitality | Hope

MEANS

Scripture | Sacraments | Prayer | Fellowship

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