

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
April 3rd, 2026
“Good Friday Service”

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE**

Toni Koons

***LIGHTNING CANDLES**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with You”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, people of God, to know again who you are.
Return to the One who gives you life.

**We come as children of God,
longing for a closer walk with our Creator.**

Come to see and know the unique Child of God,
who lived among us and died on our behalf.

**Christ gave life itself to be a servant to all,
but people despised and rejected the gift.**

Christ was wounded for our transgressions
and bruised for our iniquities.

**We believe Christ has borne our sins for us
and has sought and won our forgiveness.**

Let us draw near with true hearts,
in full assurance that our faith has meaning.

**Let us consider how to stir up one another
to live God’s love and do good to all people. Amen!**

***OPENING HYMN** *Spirit of the Living God* **UMH 393 (x 2)**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

**Meet us, loving God, at the place of the skull, when we had hoped
for a peaceful garden. Meet us in our defeats, when we had hoped
for victory. Meet us in our temptation, when we had hoped for
clear and easy decisions. Meet us here, O God, in this healing
moment, for we need you now. Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, on this solemn day we remember how Jesus was
betrayed, denied, mocked, and crucified. We confess that we, too,
have turned away—choosing silence over courage, comfort over
truth, self over sacrifice. We have failed to love as You have loved
us. We have ignored the suffering of others and the call to carry
our cross. Forgive us, O God. Let the shadow of the cross remind
us of the cost of grace and the depth of Your mercy. Cleanse our
hearts and lead us once more into the light of Your redeeming
love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Jenny Lee

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners—
this proves God’s love for us. On the cross, Jesus bore the weight of
our sin, that we might be set free.

Through His wounds, we are healed.

Through His sacrifice, we are forgiven.

So now, with humble hearts and grateful spirits, receive this truth:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God, whose mercy is
deeper than the grave and whose love is stronger than death. Amen.

All God’s people say, **“Thanks be to God”**

Meditation at the Cross

SILENT MEDITATION

*During silent meditation, persons may come forward informally
before the Thorn Crown, Cross,
and Nails, and/or touch them.*

*Bring your name (post-it note) and put it on the table near the cross
as if you are crucified on the cross with Jesus.*

Anointing of Healing and Reconciliation

People are invited to come front to be anointed.

Jesus' Seven Words on the Cross and Tenebrae

April 3rd, 2026

(See insert)

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Go to Dark Gethsemane* UMH 290

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jenny Lee

We will leave in silence, fully aware of the depth of our grief. Yet we know that Jesus' death is not God's final word. From the prophet Hosea come these words:

*"I will deliver this people from the power of the grave;
I will redeem them from death.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?" (Hosea 13:14)*

Therefore, go in peace, and remain in prayer. May Almighty God protect you, keep you in peace, shine His light upon you, and guide you now and always. Amen.

*POSTLUDE Toni Koons

Announcement:

- 1) If you'd like to share seeds or plants, please bring them on Easter Sunday. Let's celebrate and share the gift of life together!
- 2) Pastor Jenny is going on vacation from April 19 to May 2.
- 3) **Please prepare for a special offering on Easter Sunday!**



Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2026 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Sent to Serve, Sent in Love" (Micah 6:8)

"Church Appreciation Month" Good Friday Service



5:30 pm

Central-Grantsburg United Methodist Church

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Jesus' Seven Words on the Cross and Tenebrae

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23:26)

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals; one on his right, the other on his left. (Luke 23:32-33)

HYMN *Were You There* **UMH 288 (v.1)**

THE FIRST WORD: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

The First candle is extinguished.

We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong. Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:41-42)

HYMN *Were You There* **UMH 288 (v.1)**

THE SECOND WORD: "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

The Second candle is extinguished.

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby. (John 19:23-25)

HYMN *Were You There* **UMH 288 (v.1)**

THE THIRD WORD: "Dear Woman, here is your son," "Here is your mother." (John 19:27)

The Third candle is extinguished.

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus Cried in a loud voice. (Matthew 27:45)

HYMN *Were You There* **UMH 288 (v.1)**

THE FOURTH WORD: "Eloi, Eloi, Lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

The Fourth candle is extinguished.

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "he is calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. (Matthew 27:47-48)

HYMN *Were You There* **UMH 288 (v.1)**

THE FIFTH WORD: "I am thirsty." (John 19:28)

The Fifth candle is extinguished.

When he received the drink, and when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. (Matthew 27:50)

HYMN *Were You There* **UMH 288 (v.1)**

THE SIXTH WORD: "It is finished." (John 19:30)

The Sixth candle is extinguished.

It was now darkness came over the whole land, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice. (Luke 23:44-45)

HYMN *Were You There* **UMH 288 (v.1)**

THE SEVENTH WORD: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

The Seventh candle is extinguished.