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GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is a Christian [holiday](#) commemorating the [crucifixion of Jesus](#) and his death at [Calvary](#). It is observed during [Holy Week](#) as part of the [Paschal Triduum](#). It is also known as **Holy Friday**, **Great Friday**, **Great and Holy Friday** (also **Holy and Great Friday**), and **Black Friday**.

Members of many [Christian denominations](#), including the [Catholic](#), [Eastern](#)

[Orthodox](#), [Lutheran](#), [Anglican](#), [Methodist](#), [Oriental Orthodox](#) and [Reformed](#) traditions, observe Good Friday with [fasting](#) and [church services](#). In many Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and

Methodist Churches, the [Service of the Great Three Hours' Agony](#) is held from noon until 3 pm, the time duration that the [Bible](#) records as darkness covering the land to Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. Communicants of the [Moravian Church](#) have a Good Friday tradition of [cleaning gravestones in Moravian cemeteries](#).

The [date of Good Friday](#) varies from one year to the next on both

the [Gregorian](#) and [Julian](#) calendars. [Eastern](#) and [Western Christianity](#) disagree over the computation of the date of Easter and therefore of Good Friday. Good Friday is a widely instituted [legal holiday](#) around

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the world, including in most [Western](#) countries and 12 [U.S. states](#). Some countries, such as Germany, have laws prohibiting certain acts, such as dancing and horse racing

BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS

According to the accounts in the Gospels, the royal soldiers, guided by Jesus' disciple [Judas Iscariot](#), [arrested](#) Jesus in the [Garden of Gethsemane](#). Judas received money ([30 pieces of silver](#))^[14] for [betraying Jesus](#) and told the guards that whomever [he kisses](#) is the one they are to arrest. Following his

arrest, Jesus was taken to the house of [Annas](#), the father-in-law of the [high priest](#), [Caiaphas](#). There he was interrogated with little result and sent bound to Caiaphas the high priest where the [Sanhedrin](#) had assembled.^[15]

Conflicting testimony against Jesus was brought forth by many witnesses, to which Jesus answered nothing. Finally the

high priest adjured Jesus to respond under solemn oath, saying "I adjure you, by the Living God, to tell us, are you the Anointed One, the Son of God?" Jesus testified ambiguously, "You have said it, and in time you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty, coming on the clouds of Heaven." The high priest condemned Jesus for [blasphemy](#), and the [Sanhedrin concurred with a](#)

[sentence of death](#).^[16] Peter, waiting in the courtyard, also [denied Jesus](#) three times to bystanders while the interrogations were proceeding just as Jesus had foretold.

In the morning, the whole assembly brought Jesus to the Roman governor [Pontius Pilate](#) under charges of subverting the nation, opposing taxes to Caesar, and making himself a king.^[17] Pilate authorized the Jewish leaders to judge Jesus according to their own law and execute sentencing; however, the Jewish leaders replied that they were not allowed by the Romans to carry out a sentence of death.^[18]

[Pilate questioned](#) Jesus and told the assembly that there was no basis for sentencing. Upon learning that Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate referred the case to the ruler of [Galilee, King Herod](#), who was in [Jerusalem](#) for the [Passover](#) Feast. [Herod questioned](#) Jesus but received no answer; Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. Pilate told the assembly that neither he nor Herod found Jesus to be guilty; Pilate resolved to have Jesus whipped and released.^[19] Under the guidance of the chief priests, the crowd asked for [Barabbas](#), who had been imprisoned for committing murder during an insurrection. Pilate asked what they would have him do with Jesus, and they demanded, "Crucify him!"^[20] [Pilate's wife](#) had seen Jesus in a dream earlier that day, and she forewarned Pilate to "have nothing to do with this righteous man".^[21] Pilate had

Jesus [flogged](#) and then brought him out to the crowd to release him. The chief priests informed Pilate of a new charge, demanding Jesus be sentenced to death "because he claimed to be God's son." This possibility filled Pilate with fear, and he brought Jesus back inside the palace and demanded to know from where he came.^[22]

Coming before the crowd one last time, Pilate declared Jesus innocent and washed his own hands in water to show he had no part in this condemnation. Nevertheless, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified in order to forestall a riot.^[23] and ultimately to keep his job. The sentence written was "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Jesus carried his cross to the site of execution (assisted by [Simon of Cyrene](#)), called the "place of the Skull", or "[Golgotha](#)" in Hebrew and in Latin "Calvary". There he was crucified along with two criminals.^[24]

Jesus agonized on the cross for six hours. During his last three hours on the cross, from noon to 3 pm, [darkness fell over the whole land](#).^[25] Jesus [spoke from the cross](#), quoting the messianic [Psalm 22](#): "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

With a loud cry, Jesus gave up his spirit. There was an earthquake, tombs broke open, and the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. The [centurion](#) on guard at the site of crucifixion declared, "Truly this was God's Son!"^[26]

[Joseph of Arimathea](#), a member of the Sanhedrin and a secret follower of Jesus, who had not consented to his condemnation, went to Pilate to request the body of Jesus.^[27] Another secret follower of Jesus and member of the Sanhedrin named [Nicodemus](#) brought about a hundred-pound weight mixture of spices and helped wrap the body of Jesus.^[28] Pilate asked confirmation from the centurion of whether Jesus was dead.^[29] A soldier pierced the side of Jesus with a lance causing blood and water to flow out^[30] and the centurion informed Pilate that Jesus was dead.^[31]

Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body, wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and placed it in his own new tomb that had been carved in the rock^[32] in a garden near the site of the crucifixion.

Nicodemus^[33] also brought 75 pounds of [myrrh](#) and [aloes](#), and placed them in the linen with the body, in keeping with Jewish burial customs.^[28] They rolled a large rock over the entrance of the tomb.^[34] Then they returned home and rested, because [Shabbat](#) had begun at sunset.^[35] Matt. 28:1 "After the Shabbat, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb". i.e. "After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week,...". "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said....". (Matt. 28:6)

