

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COMPASS, PA**

April 3, 2026 – GOOD FRIDAY, YR. A

The Rev. Dr. Nina George–Hacker

Homily: “*What’s Good About This Friday?*”*

Isaiah 52:13—53:12	(Isaiah’s prophecy of the Suffering Servant)
Psalms 22	(A prayer of lament foreshadowing Christ’s crucifixion)
Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9	(God testifies that He will make a new Covenant with us through Christ’s Blood)
St. John 18:1—19:42	(The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John)

Today’s commemoration of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ brings us to an important point in the Lenten journey we began about six weeks ago. Today, of all Fridays in the entire church year is the only one designated as “Good” or “Holy” Friday.

This is intriguing, given the fact that an innocent person had to be unjustly assassinated or executed on a day like this. By all standards, what makes this particular Friday unique, good, or holy?

The full answer to this question cannot be revealed until Easter. However, without leaving us completely in the dark or in suspense, a short reason will suffice. On this day which we honor, Christ paid a costly price for our salvation by offering His own life as a sacrifice to God in payment for our sins. He paid our debt and closed the account. We no longer owed God anything—except our deepest gratitude and devotion.

When Jesus was taken to Calvary and crucified there, it looked to everyone like a brutal act. Even so, God’s glory and splendor shone through the violence and pain. Today, the Cross stands as a symbol of strength in weakness, and power through humility. It represents salvation rather than an instrument for torturing those who were accursed or evil.

Good Friday places the Cross before us and challenges us not to look away—*wherever* there is suffering. If we follow the footsteps of Christ to Calvary, we need not fear, because, like Him, we can have confidence in God’s divine presence and protection.

That through His Passion, Christ has given us such a great lesson on love and generosity must awaken in us a response of gratitude and serious commitment both to God and to one another. The way of the Cross must be the way *we* live, as we walk that way supported by Jesus, who will give us victory at the end of our journey.

Finally, tonight let us ask God to strengthen us through the Passion of Christ, so that, wherever there is suffering or pain, we might see the face of Jesus and respond with His sacrificial love and care. Let us also ask our Lord for the strength and wisdom we need to be signs of hope wherever there is despair, peace where there is discord, and love wherever love is needed.

Peace be with you. *Amen.*

* Njoku Canice Chukwuemeka, “What a great lesson on Love and Generosity!” 6 April 2023, [Fr. Canice](https://frcanicenjoku.com/2023/04/06/homily-for-good-friday-year-a/) <<https://frcanicenjoku.com/2023/04/06/homily-for-good-friday-year-a/>> 17 March 2026.