

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE WORSHIP

April 3, 2026

7 PM



Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

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NOTES ON THE SERVICE

The Office of Tenebrae is a holy week devotion that dates back to the 7th or 8th century and is characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. The readings are taken from the lessons appointed for good Friday, walking us through the final moments of Jesus' life.

In keeping with the solemnity of this service, we gather in silence and ask that there be **no applause** throughout.

The dramatic feature of Tenebrae is the gradual extinguishing of all the lights in the church, except for the Christ Candle. The candle is removed from view during the Service, leaving the church in darkness as Christ suffers death. **A loud noise is made (the strepitus) during this part of the service**, hearkening to the closing of the tomb and the earthquake of the Passion narrative. Then the Christ Candle is returned to its place in anticipation of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The offering plate is not passed during the service. You are invited to place your gift in the baskets located near the sanctuary exits, before or after each service.

This service will end in silence, sending us out to contemplate Jesus' death and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

Please stand as you are able.

SILENT PROCESSION

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

BIDDING PRAYER

Let us pray for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent Prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for Yehiel and Suzanne our bishops, for Jonathan our pastor, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, deacons, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus, your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE REPROACHES

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

**Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;
God eternal, leave us not to bitter death.
O Lord, have mercy.**

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

**Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;
God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell.
O Lord, have mercy.**

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could I have done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

**Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;
God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith.
O Lord, have mercy.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

LEAD ME TO THE CROSS

Savior, I come. Quiet my soul, remember
redemption's hill where Your blood was spilled for my ransom.
Ev'rything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

CHORUS

Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out.
Bring me to my knees. Lord, I lay me down.
Rid me of myself; I belong to You.
Oh, lead me. Lead me to the cross. *(repeat)*

FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate spoke to the crowd: "What do you wish me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So, after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

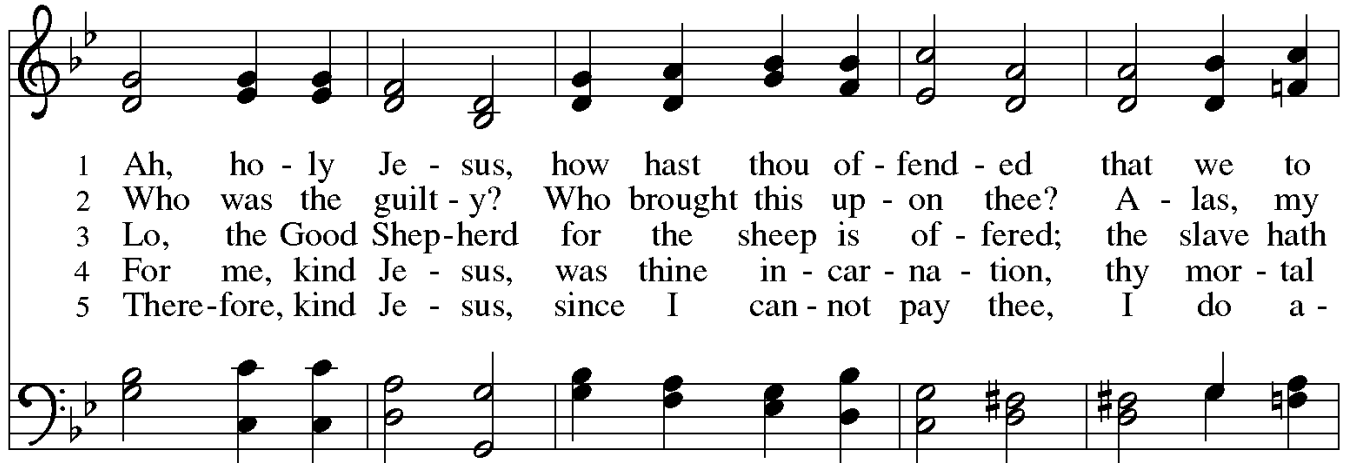
God did not spare his own Son,
but delivered him up for us all.

Please stand as you are able.

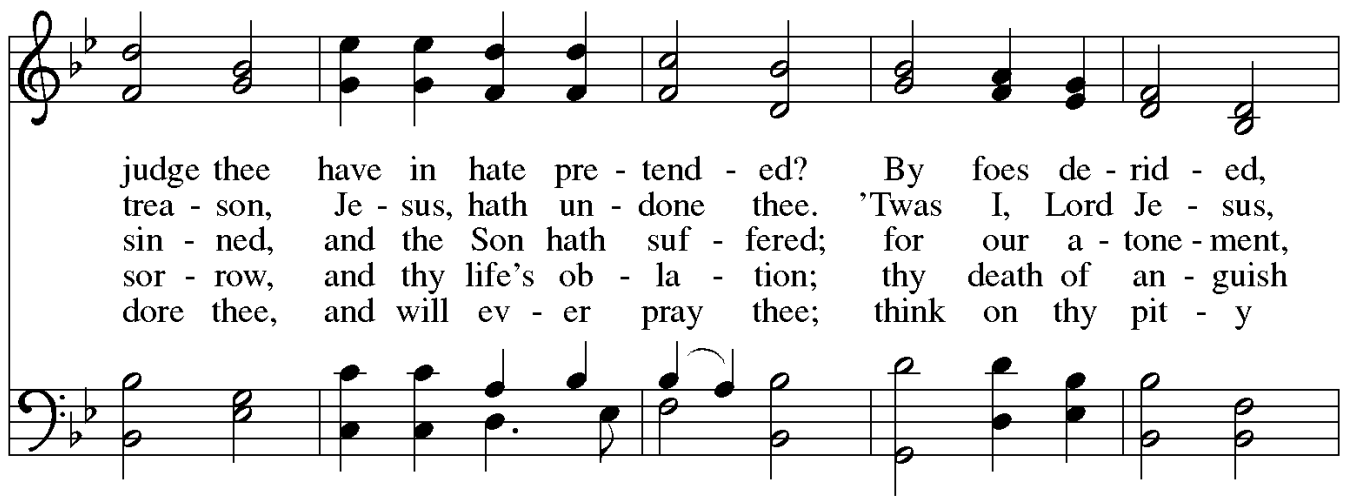
HYMN

AH, HOLY JESUS

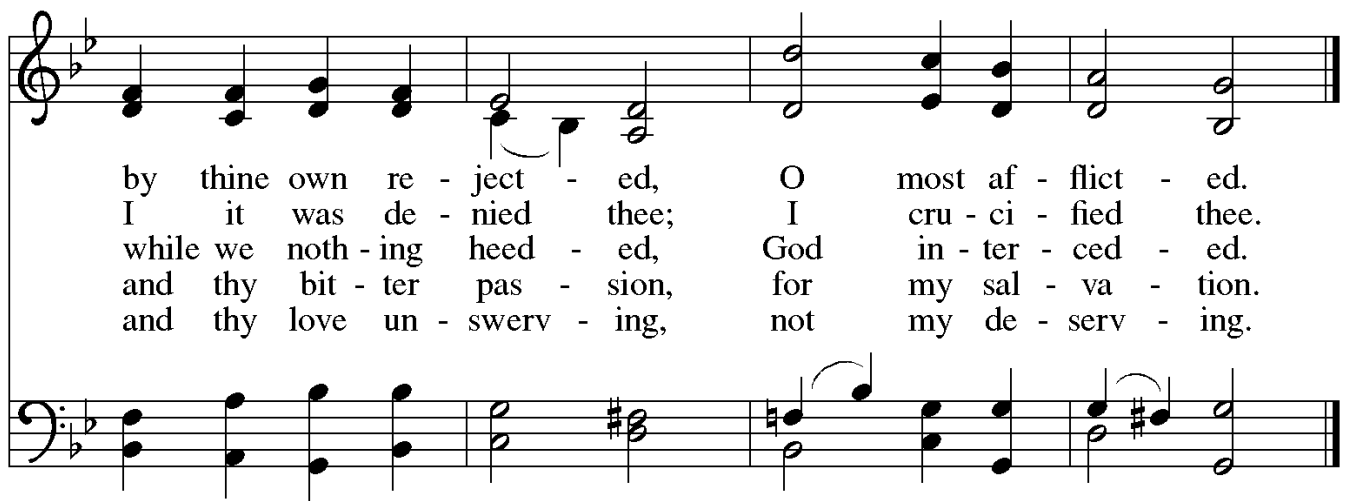
ELW 349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

Please be seated.

1st Candle Extinguished

SECOND STATION

JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to the place called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing.

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:
for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

SPECIAL MUSIC

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find, rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
There the bright and Morning Star sheds it's beams around me.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find, rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadows o'er me.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find, rest beyond the river.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find, rest beyond the river.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

2nd Candle Extinguished

SPECIAL MUSIC

TAKE UP THY CROSS, THE SAVIOR SAID

arr. Howard Helvey

Zach Ruppel, piano

THIRD STATION

THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me
cannot be my disciple.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL

1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me,
2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm,
3 Should thy mer - cy send me sor - row, toil, and woe,

lest by base de - ni - al I de - part from thee.
or its sor - did trea - sures spread to work me harm,
or should pain at - tend me on my path be - low,

When thou seest me wa - ver, with a look re - call;
bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne,
grant that I may nev - er fail thy hand to see;

nor from fear or fa - vor suf - fer me to fall.
or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross-crowned Cal - va - ry.
grant that I may ev - er cast my care on thee.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

Please be seated.

3rd Candle Extinguished

FOURTH STATION JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

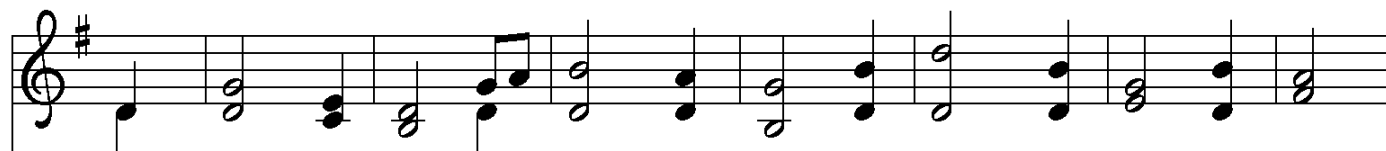
Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Please remain seated.

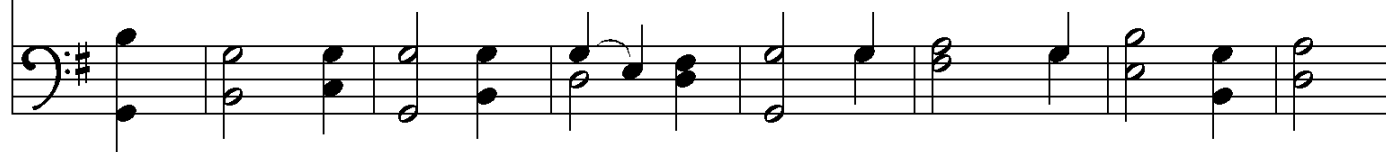
HYMN

ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED

ELW 337



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.



Let us pray.

Teach your church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

4th Candle Extinguished

FIFTH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to a place called Golgotha, they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. The soldiers divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

They gave me gall to eat,
and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

ELW 347



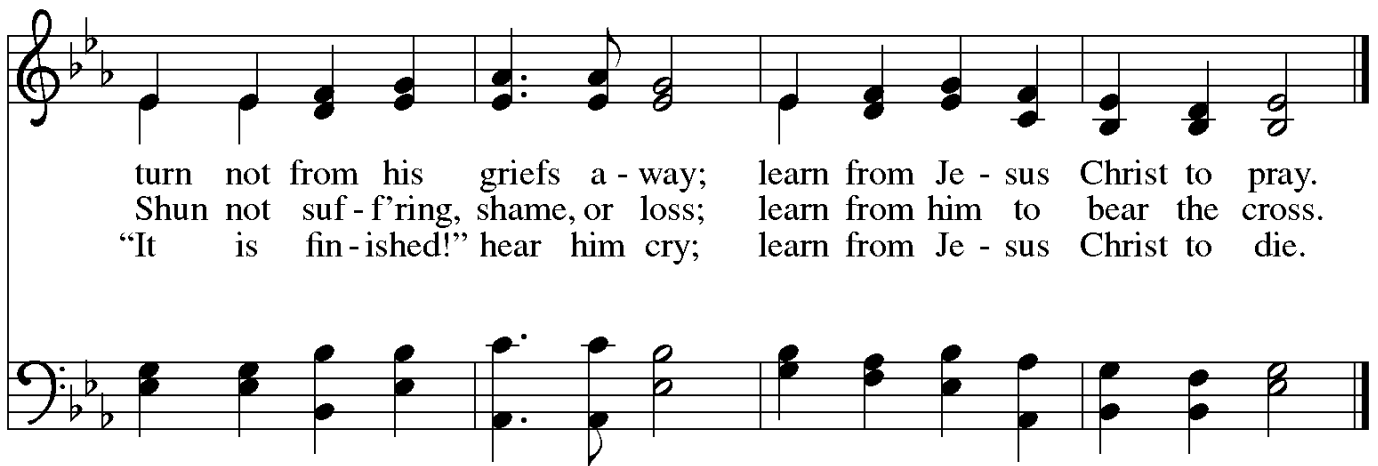
1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.



Let us pray.

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

Please be seated.

5th Candle Extinguished

SIXTH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Jesus; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, and one on the left. He poured out himself to death, and yet he bore the sin of many.

They pierce my hands and my feet;
they stare and gloat over me.

SPECIAL MUSIC

NO CRYING HE MAKES

by Taylor Scott Davis

St. Paul Vocal Choir

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

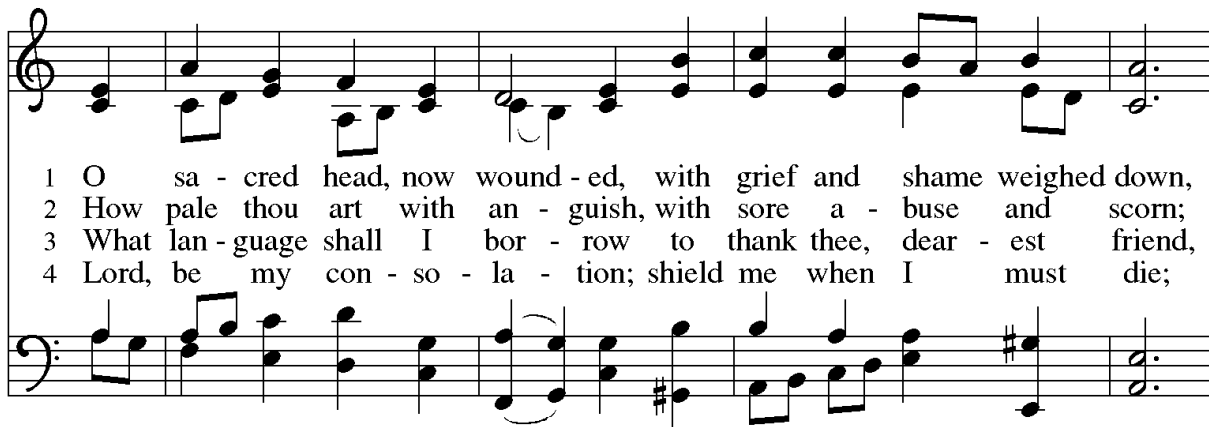
6th Candle Extinguished

Please stand as you are able.

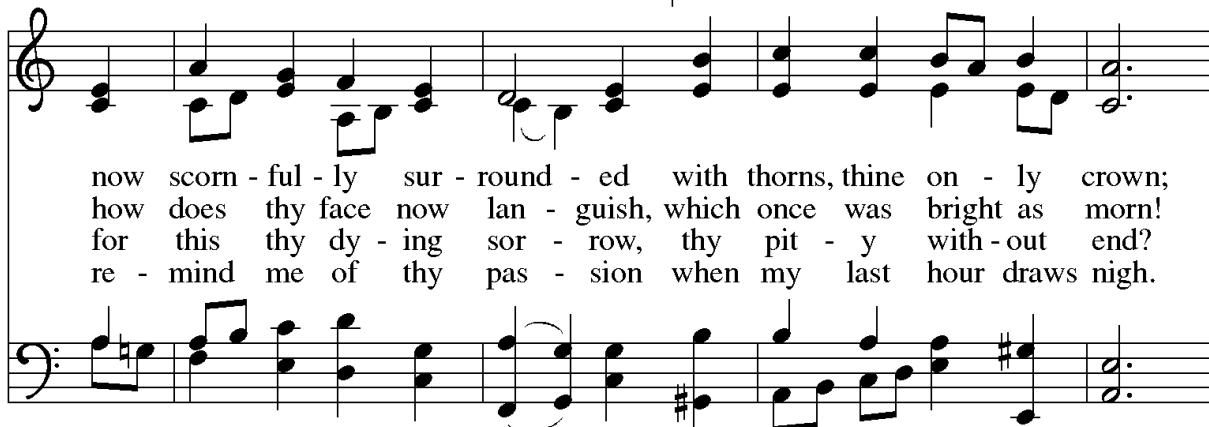
HYMN

O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

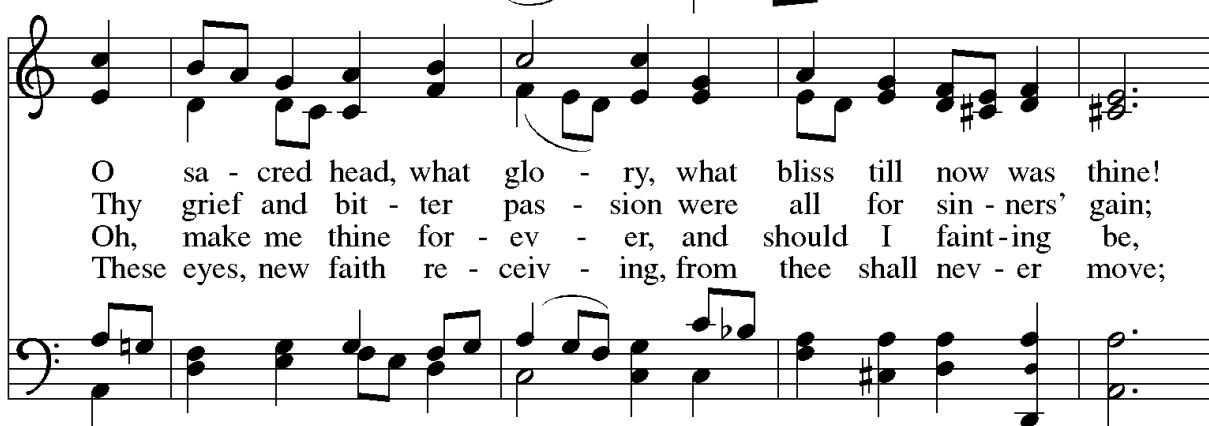
ELW 351



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

SEVENTH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And when Jesus had received the vinegar he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Christ for us became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

CALVARY'S ENOUGH

Karla Kruse, vocals, Zach Ruppel, piano

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

7th CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

EIGHTH STATION

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

You will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see corruption.

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Let us pray.

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day. Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

The Christ Candle is removed . . .

*As the Christ Candle is removed, the bell will toll 33 times,
one for every year of Christ's life on earth.*

*After a brief silence, **the "Strepitus" is heard;**
this is a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

WERE YOU THERE?

Arr. Brian L. Hanson

St. Paul Vocal Choir

CONCLUSION

Let us pray.

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; to Christ our Lord who loves us, washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

*The Christ candle is brought back into our presence
as a reminder of the promise of God's eternal love.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. (quietly)

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.

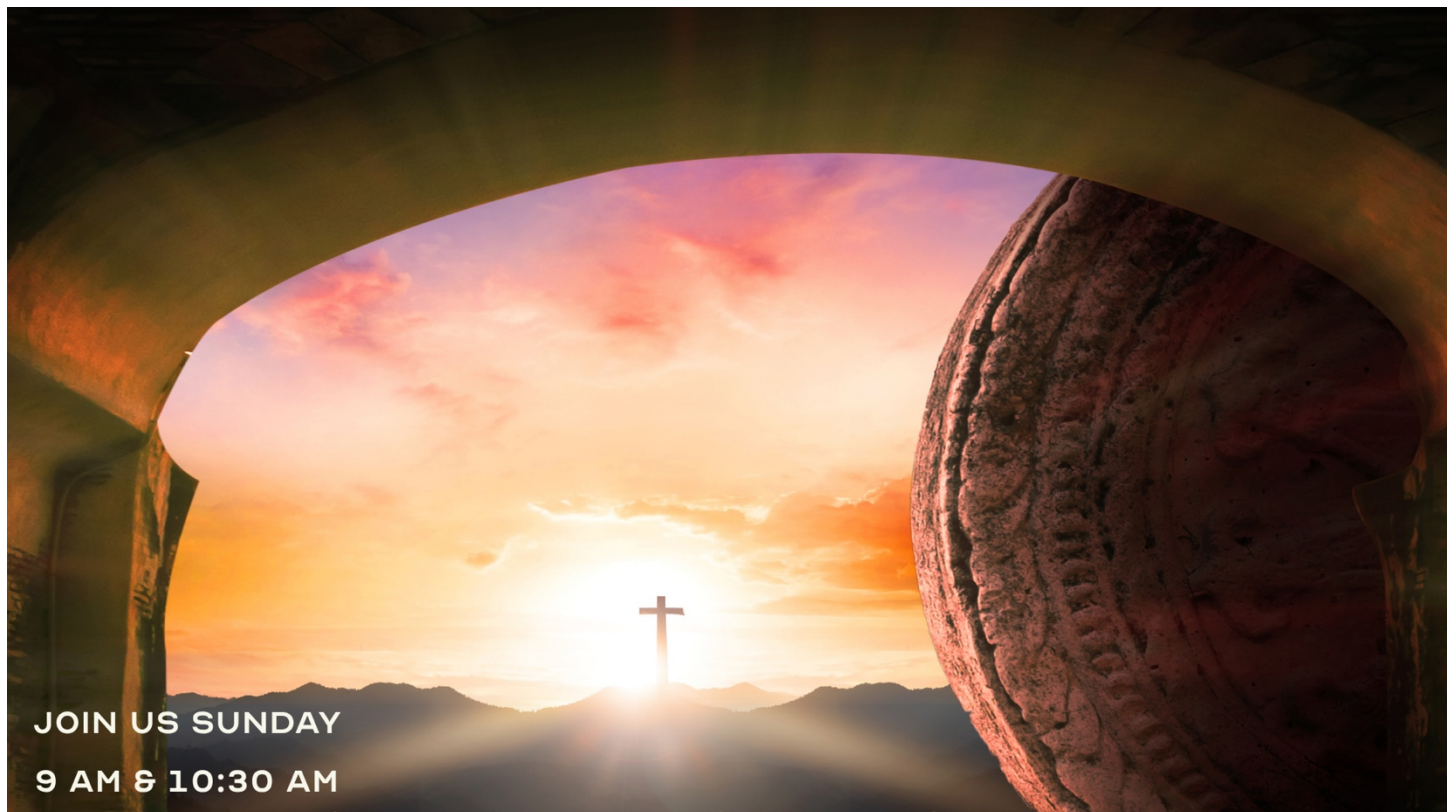
As the lights are brought up, please leave in silence row by row, starting from the front following the Worship Leaders and Choir, contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday.

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As we cultivate welcoming communities of faith with our neighbors and world, we strive for a world where everyone **"Experiences God's Love"**.

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion at every service. We welcome you to join us at the table of the Lord. Our Communion Bread is gluten, peanut, tree nut, soy, and dairy-free. **White grape juice is always available in the center of the tray.** All are welcome.

NURSERY

The nursery is located at the top of the ramp of the main entrance to the church. Currently, the nursery is not staffed, however, it is available for you to use with your child. Also, for our young worshippers, please find **Worship Wonder Bags** on the small coat rack in the rear of the sanctuary, untie, and enjoy. After worship, please put the **UNTIED bag back** on the rack to be replenished and cleaned.

Online giving to St. Paul is available: Using your mobile device, scan below or Text **SPLCGIVE** to **73256**.

CONTACTS

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Prayer requests may be sent to
prayer@splcwesterville.org

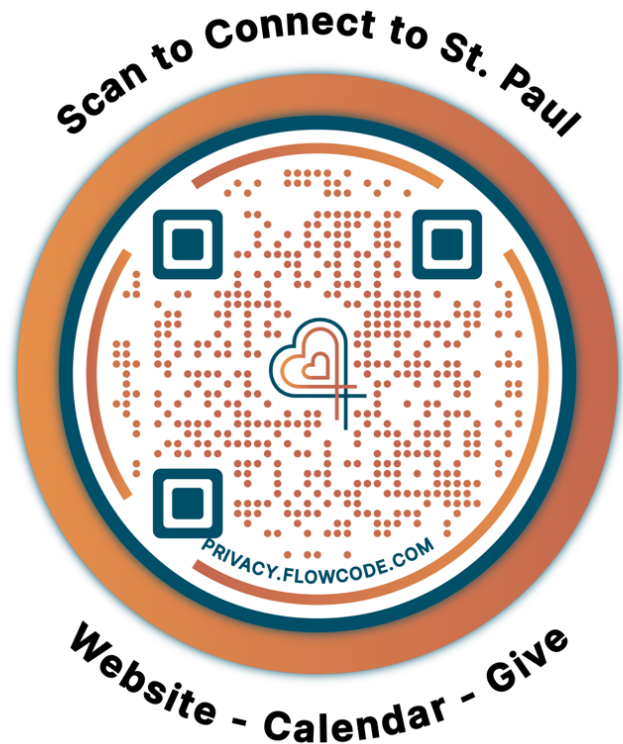
MUSIC STAFF

Karla Kruse, Director of Music Ministries
Judy McLeod, Handbell Director
Zach Ruppel, Director of Contemporary Music
Church Office: M-F 8:00

AM – 4:30 PM
Philip Cordell, Organist

Closed for lunch:

12 PM- 1 PM
Susan Treer, Contemporary Keyboardist



Please contact us if you have any questions. Check out the web site for more information. St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.