

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

March 29, 2024

Worship Focus
God on Trial: Evidence



GOD ON TRIAL

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GOOD FRIDAY: TENEBRAE

Calvary Lutheran Church

In the Heart of Lake Highlands – Dallas, TX



The celebration of Good Friday as a separate day developed in fourth-century Jerusalem. When Good Friday emerged as a separate day commemorative of the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, it became at once the church's great day of mourning. The name Good Friday is of English origin and is possibly derived from "God's Friday" as "good-bye" is derived from "God be with you."

The Service of Darkness or in Latin, *Officium Tenebrae*, is a service held on Good Friday evening in which the progressive extinguishing of candles represents the snuffing out of the life of Christ. Worshippers gather to view, as it were, *the head crowned with thorns* - the focal point of this evening's worship. The altar, stripped bare of its appointments on Maundy Thursday, recalls the stripping of Jesus' body (John 19:23) and the humility and suffering that our Savior endured on our behalf. The service begins by recalling the last hours of the Savior's life in the Gospel from St. John. The psalms prophesy of the physical and spiritual torment Jesus endured as he atoned for the sins of the world. The lessons from Lamentations are an ancient element of the service. In them, God calls his people to repentance for sin and unbelief - the very cause of our Savior's passion. And while the sounds and sights of Tenebrae are meant to be austere and stark, the service is never without hope and anticipation. As worship nears an end, the remaining candle, a symbol of our Lord himself, is carried out of the chancel, symbolizing his burial. But the silence is broken with a loud, resounding noise - the *Streptitus* - that foreshadows the rending of Christ's tomb in triumph on Easter morning. With quiet drama the candle then returns to the sanctuary. Even on Good Friday, we worship a living Christ, the guarantor that we, too, will never die.

In keeping with the solemnity of the day, there will be no pre- or post-service music.

Silence for meditation is appreciated.

Tonight's service is printed in slightly larger font sizes for easier reading in the growing darkness.

God bless your worship.

ORDER OF SERVICE

After the lighting of the candles, the ministers enter in silence.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Sung by cantor

- 1 *Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's son, yet David's Lord;
proofs I see sufficient of it: 'tis the true and faithful Word.*
- 2 *Tell me, as you hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his,
friends through fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress?
Many hands were raised to wound him, none would intervene to save;
but the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that justice gave.*
- 3 *If you think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great,
here you see its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
'tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.*
- 4 *Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the rock of our salvation, is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded who on him their hope have built.*

Please stand

GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel of St. John

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others--one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said,
"They divided my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing."

So this is what the soldiers did.

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, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Please be seated

HYMN

525 – The Lamb

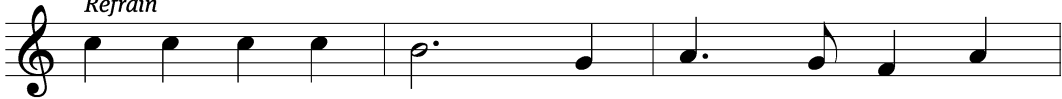


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
so still, his will, on our be - half the law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own right - eous - ness.
His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



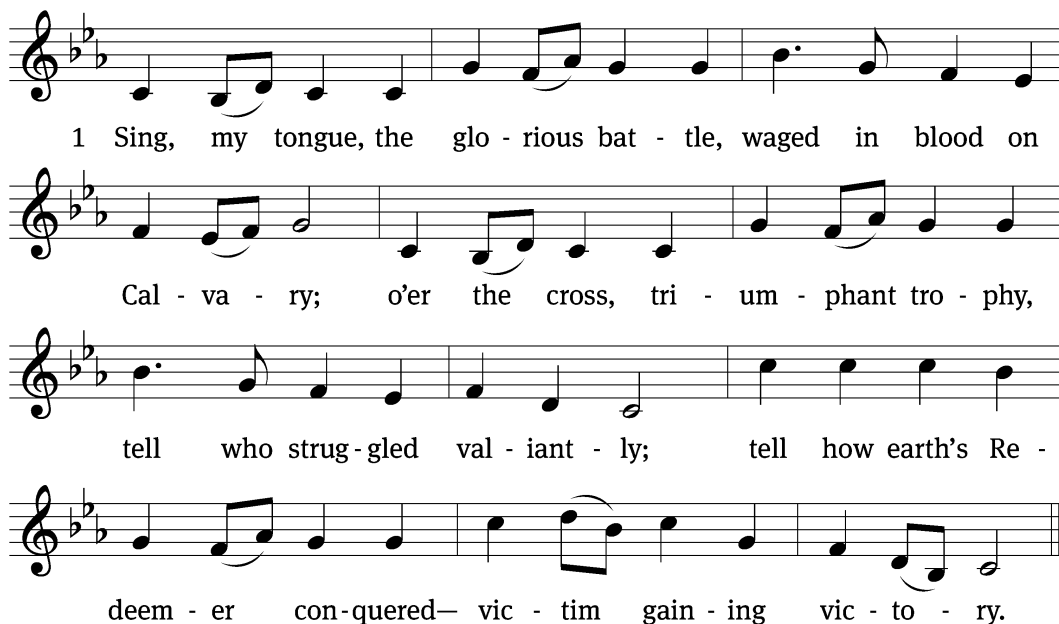
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

**The first candle is extinguished
Silence for meditation**

PSALM

Psalm 22
A Litany

The congregation sings the hymns stanzas from “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle” between the verses of Psalm 22.



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle, waged in blood on
Cal - va - ry; o'er the cross, tri - um - phant tro - phy,
tell who strug - gled val - iant - ly; tell how earth's Re -
deem - er con - quered— vic - tim gain - ing vic - to - ry.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?

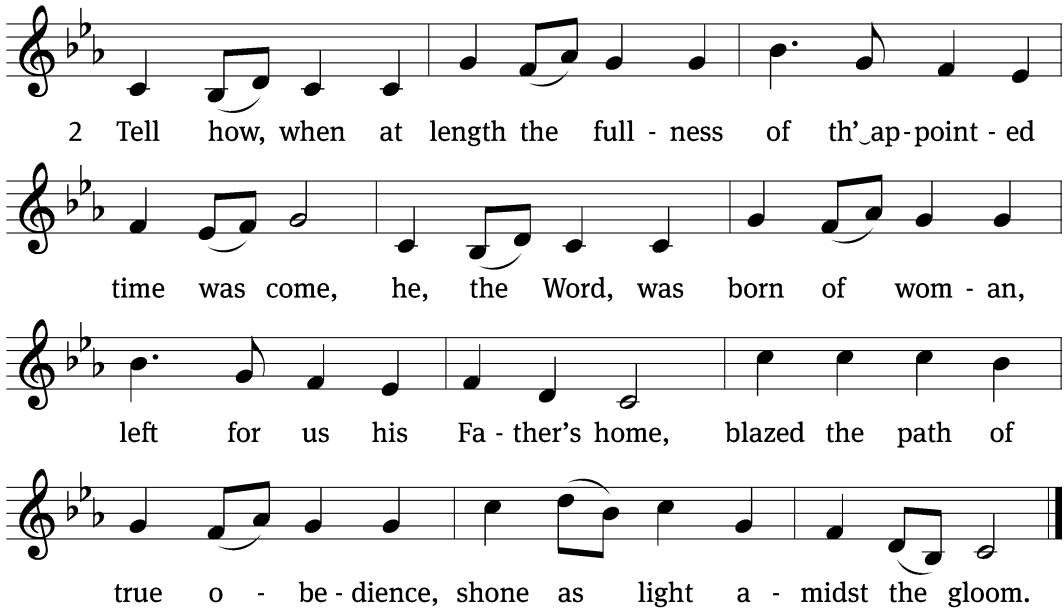
O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, and am not silent.

But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

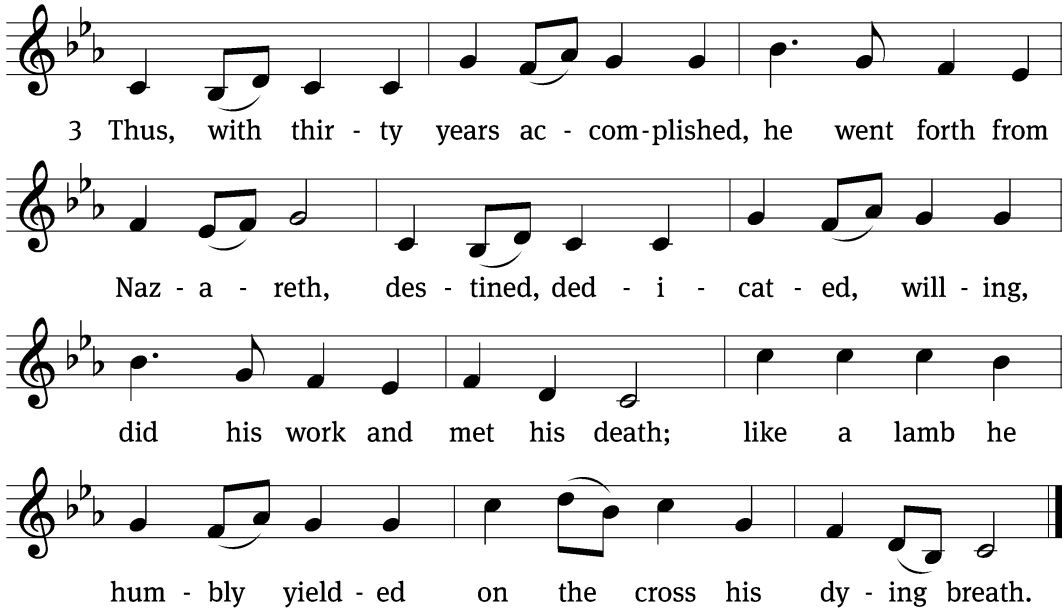
Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.”



2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness of th' ap - point - ed
time was come, he, the Word, was born of wom - an,
left for us his Fa - ther's home, blazed the path of
true o - be - dience, shone as light a - midst the gloom.

Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.
I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted away within me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

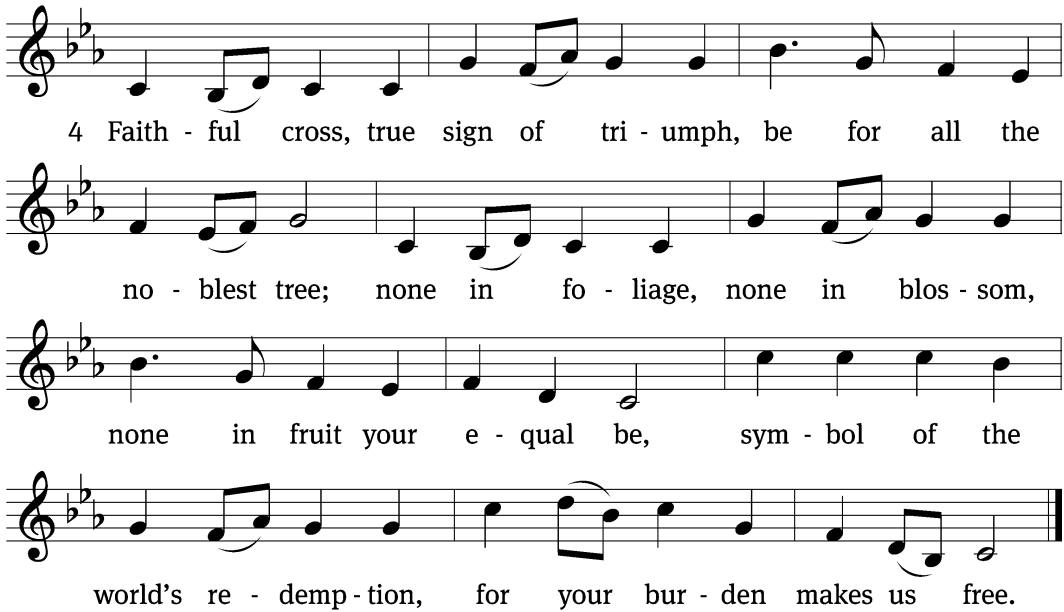




3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com-plished, he went forth from
Naz - a - reth, des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,
did his work and met his death; like a lamb he
hum - bly yield - ed on the cross his dy - ing breath.

Dogs have surrounded me;
a band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.
I can count all my bones;
people stare and gloat over me.
They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.

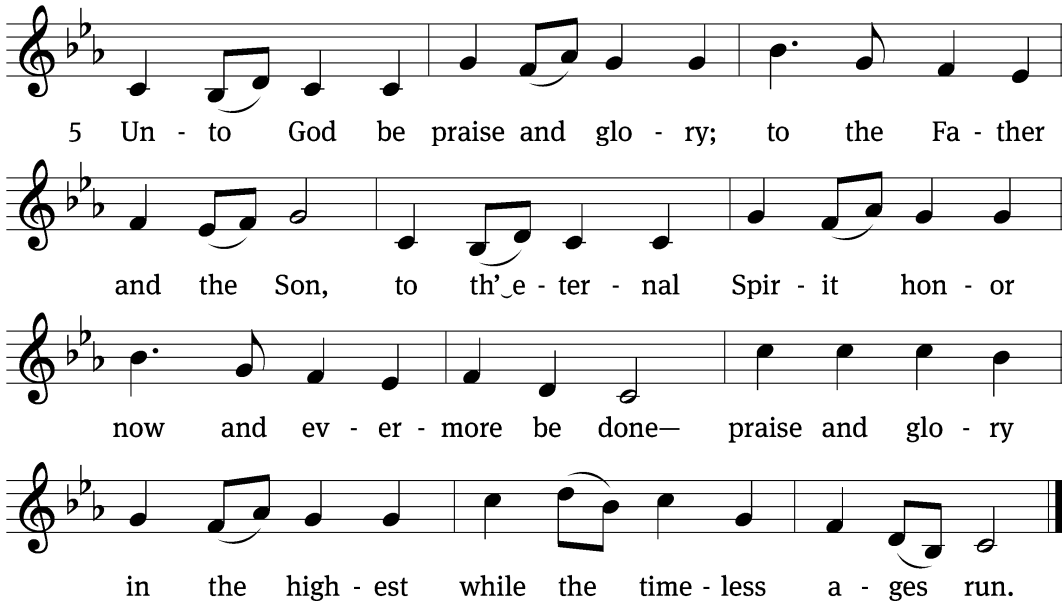




4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, be for all the
no - blest tree; none in fo - liage, none in blos - som,
none in fruit your e - qual be, sym - bol of the
world's re - demp - tion, for your bur - den makes us free.

But you, O LORD,
be not far off;
O my Strength,
come quickly to help me.
For he has not despised
or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.





5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; to the Fa - ther
 and the Son, to th'e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or
 now and ev - er - more be done— praise and glo - ry
 in the high - est while the time - less a - ges run.

From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
 before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.
 The poor will eat and be satisfied;
 they who seek the LORD will praise him –
 may your hearts live forever!
 All the ends of the earth
 will remember and turn to the LORD,
 and all the families of the nations
 will bow down before him,
 for dominion belongs to the LORD
 and he rules over the nations.
 They will proclaim his righteousness
 to a people yet unborn –
 for he has done it.

**The second candle is extinguished
 Silence for meditation**

PSALM

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation –
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life –
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil men advance against me
to devour my flesh,
when my enemies and my foes attack me,
they will stumble and fall.

For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle
and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;
be merciful to me and answer me.

Following the reading of the psalm, please stand.



HYMN

526 – What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm



this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse
down be-neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown
Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme,
free, I'll sing his love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty



for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
I will sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Please remain standing

**The third candle is extinguished
Silence for meditation**

Please be seated

BETRAYAL

IN PROPHECY

Psalm 41:7-10

All my enemies whisper together against me;
they imagine the worst for me, saying,
“A vile disease has beset him;
he will never get up from the place where he lies.”
Even my close friend, whom I trusted,
he who shared my bread,
has lifted up his heel against me.
But you, O LORD, have mercy on me;
raise me up, that I may repay them.

IN FULFILLMENT

Mark 14:17-21, 32-50

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me--one who is eating with me.”

They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely not I?”

“It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”...

... They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” Then everyone deserted him and fled.

ANTHEM

Lamb of God

Sung by the Choir

*Lamb of God most holy!
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Patient still and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer;
Our sins by thee were taken,
Or hope had us forsaken:
Have mercy on us, O Jesu!*

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 53:1-3

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised,

And we esteemed him not. Lord, have mercy on us.

Please stand

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Be Seated

HYMN

435 – Jesus, in Your Dying Woes



1 Je - sus, in your dy - ing woes, e - ven while your life - blood flows,
2 Je - sus, pit - y - ing the sighs of the thief who near you dies,
3 Je - sus, lov - ing to the end her whose heart your sor - rows rend,
4 Je - sus, plunged in depths un-known with our e - vil foe a - lone,



crav - ing par - don for your foes: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!
prom - is - ing him par - a - dise: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!
and your dear - est hu - man friend: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!
while no light from heav'n is shown: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!

- 5 Jesus, in your thirst and pain,
while your wounds the lifeblood drain,
thus fulfilling Scripture's plan:
hear us, holy Jesus!
- 6 Jesus, all our ransom paid,
all your Father's will obeyed,
by your suff'rings perfect made:
hear us, holy Jesus!
- 7 Jesus, all your labor vast,
all your woe and conflict past,
yielding up your soul at last:
hear us, holy Jesus!

ABSOLUTION

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

**The third candle is extinguished
Silence for meditation**

CONDEMNATION

Stand

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

**If you kept a record of sins, O Lord,
who could stand?**

But with you there is forgiveness;

therefore you are feared. I wait for the Lord.

My soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. Amen.

Be Seated

IN PROPHECY

Psalm 69:1-12

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me. I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God. Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal. You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you. May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the LORD Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel. For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face. I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons; for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me. When I weep and fast, I must endure scorn; when I put on sackcloth, people make sport of me. Those who sit at the gate mock me, and I am the song of the drunkards.

IN FULFILLMENT

Mark 14:53-65

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.’” “Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

Luke 23:13-24

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him. “

With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand.

Mark 15:17-20

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,
Yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Lord have mercy on us.

Please stand

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

O my God, I am too ashamed and disgraced to lift up my face to you, my God, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens. From the days of our forefathers until now, our guilt has been great... What has happened to us is a result of our evil deeds and our great guilt, and yet, our God, you have punished us less than our sins have deserved... O LORD, God of Israel, you are righteous! We are left this day as a remnant. Here we are before you in our guilt, though because of it not one of us can stand in your presence. (Ezra 9:6,7,13,15) **Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Amen.**

Be Seated

HYMN

429 – O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



All 1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and
Men 2 Men mock and taunt and jeer you, they smite your
Women 3 Now from your cheeks has van - ished their col - or,
Men 4 My bur - den in your pas - sion, Lord, you have



shame weighed down, now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed,
coun - te - nance, though might - y worlds shall fear you
once so fair; from your red lips is ban - ished
borne for me, for it was my trans - gres - sion,



with thorns your on - ly crown, O sa - cred head, no
and flee be - fore your glance. How pale you are with
the splen - dor that was there. Grim death with cru - el
my shame, on Cal - va - ry. I cast me down be -



glo - ry now from your face does shine; yet, though de -
 an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn! Your eyes with
 rig - or has robbed you of your life; thus you have
 fore you; wrath is my right - ful lot. Have mer - cy,



spised and go - ry, I joy to call you mine.
 pain now lan - guish that once were bright as morn!
 lost your vig - or, your strength, in this sad strife.
 I im - plore you; Re - deem - er, spurn me not!

Women

6 My Savior, then be near me
 when death is at my door,
 and let your presence cheer me;
 forsake me nevermore!
 When soul and body languish,
 O leave me not alone,
 but take away my anguish
 by virtue of your own!

All

7 Lord, be my consolation,
 my shield when I must die;
 remind me of your passion
 when my last hour draws nigh.
 My eyes will then behold you,
 upon your cross will dwell;
 my heart will then enfold you—
 who dies in faith dies well!

ABSOLUTION

Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him. Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace. (2 Samuel 14:14 & Ephesians 2:13,14).

***The fifth candle is extinguished
 Silence for meditation***

CRUCIFIXION

Please stand

PRAYER

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17).

Be Seated

IN PROPHECY

Psalm 22:1-18

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: “He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother’s breast. From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

IN FULFILLMENT

Matthew 27:32-50

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!”

In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” “In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”-- which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s 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. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.



RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 53:7-9

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants?

For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death,
Though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Lord, have mercy on us.

Pleas stand

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. (Psalms 51:1-6).

Be Seated

HYMN

431 – Oh, Perfect Life of Love



- 1 O per - fect life of love! All, all is fin - ished now,
2 No work is left un - done of all the Fa - ther willed;
3 No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;
4 And on his thorn-crowned head and on his sin - less soul



all that he left his throne a - bove to do for us be - low.
his toil, his sor - rows, one by one, the Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
all forms of hu - man grief and care have pierced that ten - der heart.
our sins in all their guilt were laid that he might make us whole.

- 5 In perfect love he dies;
for me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
you died to make me free!
- 6 In ev'ry time of need,
before the judgment throne,
your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
your merits, not my own.

MESSAGE FOR MEDITATION

Matthew 27:38-54

God on Trial: Evidence

*The sixth candle is extinguished
Silence for meditation*

HYMN

426 – Were You There



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh,
there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh,
there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh,



some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

REMOVAL OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

*The seventh candle is removed from the nave
leaving the church in darkness for silent prayer and meditation.*

FINAL PROPHECY

Isaiah 53:10-12

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Silence for meditation

STREPITUS

**A loud noise (*strepitus*) representing the rending of Christ's tomb is heard,
and the seventh candle is returned to burn in the chancel.**

HYMN

Wondrous Love

Sung by a quartet

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
That caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
That Christ should lay aside his crown for my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

***As the lights come up, the congregation disperses
silently into the night.***

Those who wish to do so, may remain for meditation.

***As you leave this evening, continue your quiet reflection upon
our Lord's suffering and death begun in the chapel.***

***You may place a Good Friday offering
in the plate as you leave.***

Our Lord died for our sins - but yet shall he live!