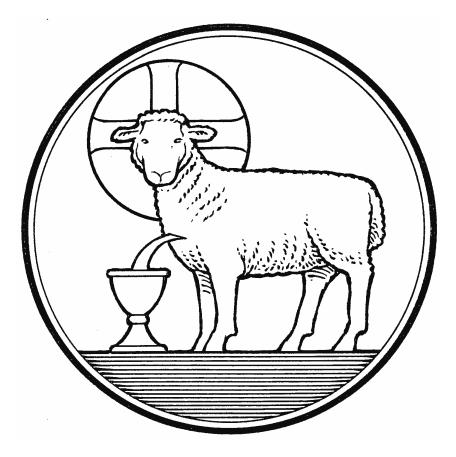
March 28th, 2024 Maundy Thursday



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI—SYNOD 308 Byrne Street Smithville, TX 78957 512-237-2108

Pastor David Woelmer



<u>Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!</u> We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

In our readings today: "The LORD's Passover" (Ex. 12:11) and "the blood of the covenant" at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:8) are preeminent types of the Lord's Supper. The blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, now covers us, and we keep His Supper "as a feast to the LORD" (Ex. 12:13–14). In Him, we see "the God of Israel" (Ex. 24:10), and yet He does not lay His hand on us to punish us. As disciples of Jesus, we recline at the table with Him to eat and drink in peace (Mark 14:18). The apostles, who received the New Testament in His blood "on the night when he was betrayed," delivered the same to His Church, which we also now receive in remembrance of Him (1 Cor. 11:23–26; Mark 14:22–25). So He has "loved his own who were in the world," and He loves us "to the end" (John 13:1). As He thus feeds us in love, let us love one another, just as He has loved us (John 13:34). For "we who are many are one body" because "we all partake of the one bread," which is the body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:17).

<u>Holy Communion</u> is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus' own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

A Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen

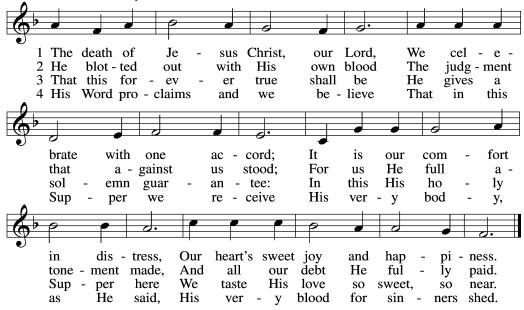
PRELUDE CALL TO WORSHIP BELL LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HOLY THURSDAY

Holy Thursday, occurring on the eve of our Lord's crucifixion, begins the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover, commonly known as the Triduum. The service on this day culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ's Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, the service, like that for Good Friday, exhibits a mood of restrained joy. The Service for Holy Thursday consists of four parts: The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution; the Service of the Word; the Service of the Sacrament; the Stripping of the Altar.

(Pastor and congregation enter in silence) Opening Hymn:

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord



- 5 We dare not ask how this can be, But simply hold the mystery And trust this word where life begins: "Given and shed for all your sins."
- 6 They who this word do not believe This food unworthily receive, Salvation here will never find— May we this warning keep in mind!

7 But blest is each believing guest Who in these promises finds rest; For Jesus shall in love remain With all who here His grace obtain.

8 Help us sincerely to believe
 That we may worthily receive
 Your Supper and in You find rest.
 Amen! They who believe are blest.

Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- ▶ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** I will go to the altar of God,
- **G** to God my exceeding joy.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.

Sit

During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us.

For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with the wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth. May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C Amen.

Stand

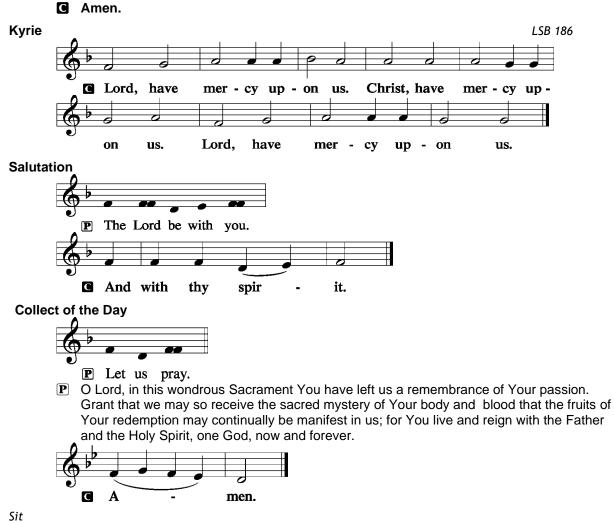
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- **P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
- C Amen.
- P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
- C Yes.
- **P** Let it be done for you as you believe.

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in + peace.



Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day

of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twiliaht.

7"Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plaque will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast."

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436 1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, A11 who feel the 2 Fol - low the View Lord of to judg - ment hall. the a - dor -3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There. ing 4 Ear - lv has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's flict con see, life ar-raigned; Oh, the the gall! worm - wood and His at feet. Mark that mir а _ cle of time, breath - less clay; All is sol i tude and gloom. _ Him one Watch with bit ter hour: Turn not from His the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun suf - f'ring. Oh. not God's own sac - ri fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!" Who has tak - en Him Christ ris'n! He a - way? is griefs Learn from Je - sus Christ to prav. a - way; shame. Learn from Him bear or loss: to the cross. Learn from Je -Christ die. hear Him cry; sus to meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. **P** This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: O Lord, We Praise Thee LSB 617 10 Thee, and a - dore Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee. 2 Thy ho - ly bod to death was у in giv en. 3 May God be - stow us His grace and fa on vor 0 thanks - giv - ing fore with Thy In bow be _ Thee. Thou Life to win for us in heav en. No great - er fol - low Christ our That we Sav ior And live to -

Thy blood didst nour - ish bod - y and Our weak souls that love than this Thee could bind us: Mav to this feast there geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this 0 flour ish: 0 they may Lord, have mer cy! of re us! 0 Lord, have mer cy! mind _ 0 blest Com - mu nion! Lord, have mer _ cy! bod - y, of That Mav Thy Lord, born Mar - y, our kind - ness Thee Lord, Thy did so con - strain That Thv Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that And Thy sins and sor - rows did car - ry, blood for us plead blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid; heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see ο cy! In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer cv! of peace and O Lord, have mer Davs u - ni - ty: cy!

Sermon "The Great Gain of Paradise Regained"

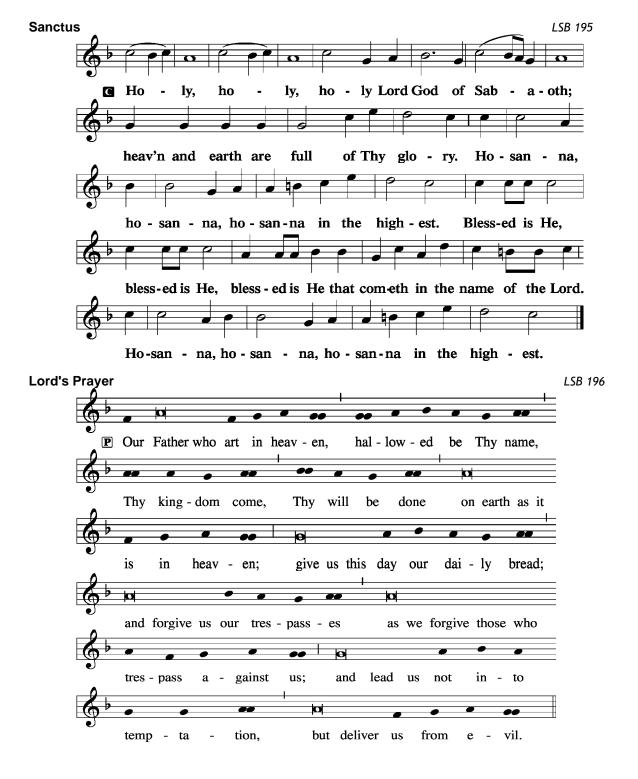
Votum

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.





It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + → body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



Distribution Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness LSB 636 1 Soul, your - self а dorn with glad - ness, Leave the bride 2 Has - ten as а to meet Him, And with who Nei -3 He craves а pre - cious trea - sure ther hum - bly 4 Now faith in Ι pon - der 0 _ ver sad - ness, Come haunts of in the day-light's gloom - y to lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im the cost nor pain will mea - sure; But price - less gifts of bread of life this sur pass - ing won - der That the is splen - dor, There with prais - es der. joy your ren mor - tal He is knock - ing at your tal. por heav - en God to us has free - lv giv en. -Though the bound-less souls it feeds are count less: the One whose grace un-bound - ed Bless This a - maz - ing pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say -0 ing, as you Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the wine of heav - en With the choic - est Christ's own blood to ban - quet found He, heav'n - ly, _ ed; though high, and Him: Grant, there a - dore Lord, that now Ι re bod - y, Christ's you gifts here of fered: true for _ is giv Oh, glo - rious us en. most con - so ho ly, Deigns dwell with to you most low ly. ceive You, That Ι nev - er - more will leave You. riv And His blood, for you once giv - en. en, Pledge and seal sal - va la tion, of my tion!

(stanzas 5-8 on next page)

- Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure, Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding: Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You; Worthily let me receive You And, so favored, never leave You.
- Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender, Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring: At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker Of this blessèd food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.
- Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish, To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness. By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You. By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited; By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure. Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior LSB 619 1 Thy bod - y, Thv blood which giv'n for 0 Sav - ior. me. 2 With Thee, Lord, nit live Ι am now u ed: Ι in 3 Who can con-demn me now? For sure - lv The Lord is 4 Though death may threat - en dis - as with can - not ter. Tt. dwell-ing, 5 My heart has now be - come Thy 0 bless - ed, Thou for These life me didst shed. are my and Thee and Thou in No row fills me. sor my nigh. who ius ti fies. No hell T fear. and of He rob me my cheer; For who is of ho ly Trin i With gels I, Thy --ty. an -By strength for them my hun - gry soul is fed. ev er, light - ed soul, de -It finds its on - ly joy in Thee. thus se _ cure - ly With Je sus Ι to heav - en rise. With death the mas - ter aid and com - fort e'er is near. prais Shall live in es tell - ing, joy e - ter - nal - ly. -Refrain Lord, may Thy bod-y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- C Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

The candles are extinguished

Stripping of the Altar

(The removal of the communion vessels, candles, linens and paraments signifies that our Lord was forsaken by His disciples, was humiliated at the soldiers' hands, and was forsaken by the Father. The altar is stripped and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.)

Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

and by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴In you our fathers trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried and were rescued;

in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

7All who see me mock me;

they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;

let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;

you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth,

and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

and there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls encompass me;

strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me,

like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs encompass me;

a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet-

¹⁷I can count all my bones—

they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸they divide my garments among them,

and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off!

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,

my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²²I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,

and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him,

but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD!

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD,

and he rules over the nations.

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰Posterity shall serve him;

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

All leave the church in silence.

(There is no benediction because this service continues with the services on Good Friday.)