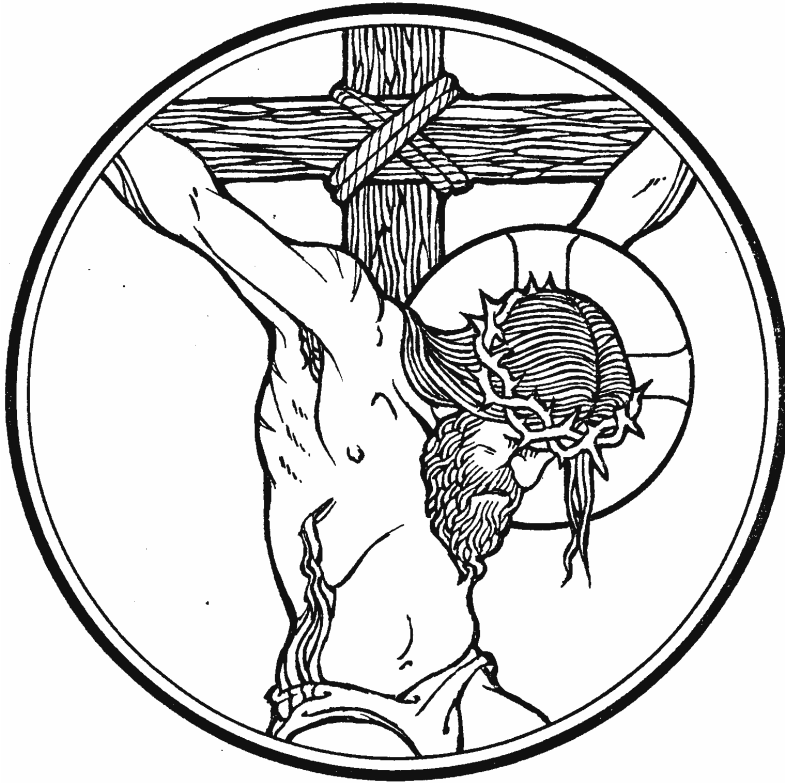


April 18th, 2025
Good Friday



Tenebrae Vespers

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

Pastor David Woelmer

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. -John 3:16



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here to hear His Word. 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: “Jesus, the Lamb of God, is led to the slaughter of His cross as the sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the world. *“Despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”* (Is. 53:3), He is the righteous Servant who justifies many by His innocent suffering and death. He bears our griefs and carries our sorrows; He is wounded for our transgressions; He is crushed for our iniquities; He suffers our chastisement, so that *“with his wounds we are healed”* (Is. 53:4–5). As the Son of God, He fulfills the Law for us in human flesh, and so fulfills the Scriptures (John 19:7, 24). In perfect faith and faithfulness, He shares all our weaknesses and temptations, *“yet without sin”* (Heb. 4:15), and as our merciful High Priest, He brings us to the Father in peace.

The pastor and congregation enter in silence. *There is no Invocation or benediction as this service is a continuation from Maundy Thursday and will conclude on Easter Sunday.*

PREFACE TO WORSHIP

Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Christ. It is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the cross. In keeping with this character, music is kept to a minimum, though not silenced. Elaborate words of praise are omitted. The altar remains bare, having been stripped on Holy Thursday.

The Office of Tenebrae is an ancient Holy Week devotion, finding its beginning in the 7th or 8th century after Christ. The name “Tenebrae” means “darkness,” and the service takes its name from the ceremony of extinguishing - in succession - the candles in the chancel, thus, gradually casting the sanctuary into complete darkness. This forms the end of the Good Friday celebration.

All enter in silence.

Stand

Opening Versicles

Psalm 51:5; Psalm 70:1

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- G** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- G** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

Introit

Psalm 38:1-4, 18, 22; antiphon: Isaiah 53:5

*He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.*
O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath!
For your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand has come down on me.
There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

For my iniquities have gone over my head;
like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.

Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.*

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Sit

Candles are extinguished

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 sts. 1-3



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Prayer

PLet us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us
all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in
Him that we fear not the power of sin, death and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ,
our Lord.

GAmen.

Candles are extinguished

Reading

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the
Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to
sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are,
yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may
receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and
tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his
reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being
made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Prayer

PLet us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the
cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give
thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from
everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

GAmen.

Candles are extinguished



4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing,
 5 If my sins give me a - larm And my con - science grieve me,
 6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; Help me bear my cross - es,



Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.
 Let Your cross my fear dis - arm; Peace of con - science give me.
 Learn - ing hum - ble - ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss - es.



How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure
 Help me see for - give - ness won By Your ho - ly pas - sion.
 May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?
 If for me He slays His Son, God must have com - pas - sion!
 That I may in heav'n a - bove Sing Your praise for - ev - er.

Reading

John 18:1-27

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now the

servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Candles are extinguished

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

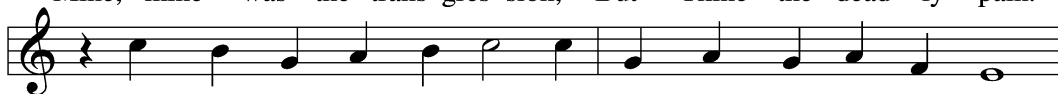
LSB 450 sts. 1-3



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 Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
How doth Thy face now lan-guish That once was bright as morn!
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;



Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

Reading

John 18:28–19:16

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves



Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?
 Then let Thy pres - ence cheer me, For - sake me nev - er - more!
 Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,
 When soul and bod - y lan - guish, O leave me not a - lone,
 Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.
 But take a - way mine an - guish By vir - tue of Thine own!
 My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

Stand

Reading

John 19:16-42

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them,
 and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side

with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Candles are extinguished

Reproaches

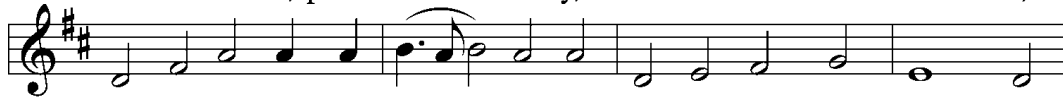
The following Reproaches are the words of the Lord against His people, the Church, to which the congregation replies with a plea for mercy.

P 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.

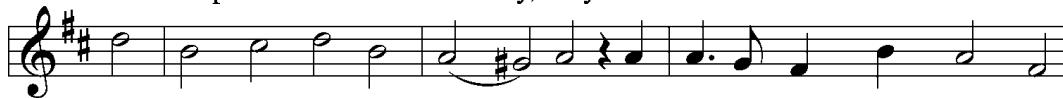
G Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa-tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had de-spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer-cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

P 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.

G 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.

2 Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been 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?

C **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.**

3 Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Responsory

1 John 2:1-2; [Mark 10:33]; Psalm 32:1

- P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.
C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Candles are extinguished

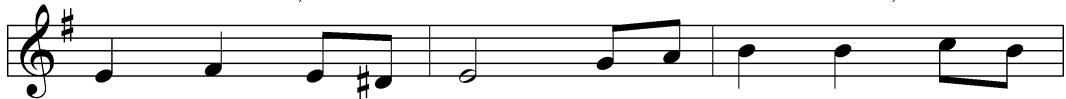
Sit



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
 3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
 4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
 His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
 great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
 lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - spect - ed
 sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
 guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
 name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
 wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
 point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
 wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
 deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
 Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
 ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

Sermon "My Servant Shall Be High and Lifted Up"

Stand

Prayers

- P** Lord, have mercy.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Christ, have mercy.
- C** Christ, have mercy.
- P** Lord, have mercy.
- C** Lord, have mercy.

C 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The final candle is extinguished, symbolizing the death of our Lord. The Strepitus (meaning “loud noise”) has a variety of interpretations, including the scourging by the soldiers, the earthquake at the moment of Christ’s death, or the closing of the tomb.

Sit



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
 2 Come, see these things and pon - der, Your soul will
 3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so
 4 I caused Your grief and sigh - ing By e - vils



Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
 fill with won - der As blood streams from each pore.
 sore a - bused You And caused You all Your woe?
 mul - ti - ply - ing As count - less as the sands.



The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
 Through grief be - yond all know - ing From His great heart came
 We all must make con - fes - sion Of sin and dire trans -
 I caused the woes un - num - bered With which Your soul is



giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
 flow - ing Sighs well - ing from its deep - est core.
 gres - sion While You no ways of e - vil know.
 cum - bered, Your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.

5 Your soul in griefs unbounded,
 Your head with thorns surrounded,
 You died to ransom me.
 The cross for me enduring,
 The crown for me securing,
 You healed my wounds and set me free.

7 Your cross I place before me;
 Its saving pow'r restore me,
 Sustain me in the test.
 It will, when life is ending,
 Be guiding and attending
 My way to Your eternal rest.

6 Your cords of love, my Savior,
 Bind me to You forever,
 I am no longer mine.
 To You I gladly tender
 All that my life can render
 And all I have to You resign.

In the sure and certain knowledge of Christ's resurrection from the dead and the sure hope of our own, the Light of Christ is returned to the sanctuary.

Join us for our Easter Sunday service at 8AM, followed by the breakfast and egg hunt.

