

Good Friday

Tenebrae Vespers



Our Savior Lutheran Church
Westminster, Massachusetts

Good Friday (recorded) April 10, 2020

The congregation speaks together the bold lines.

Please stand for the opening verses, the psalm, the hymns, and the prayers. Be seated for the readings.

PSALM 22 (antiphon: v. 1)

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

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

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

and by night, but I find no rest.

Yet You are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In You our fathers trusted;

they trusted, and You delivered them.

To You they cried and were rescued;

in You they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;

they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

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

let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!"

Yet You are He who took me from the womb;

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

On You was I cast from my birth,

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

Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

and there is none to help.

Many bulls encompass me;

strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

they open wide their mouths at me,

like a ravening and roaring lion.

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

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

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

You lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs encompass me;

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

I can count all my bones—

they stare and gloat over me;

they divide my garments among them,

and for my clothing they cast lots.

But You, O LORD, do not be far off!

O You my help, come quickly to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword,

my precious life from the power of the dog!

Save me from the mouth of the lion!

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

I will tell of Your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:

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

and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel.

For 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.

From You comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will perform before those who fear Him.

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

May your hearts live forever!

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

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

For kingship belongs to the LORD,

and He rules over the nations.

All 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.

Posterity shall serve Him;

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

they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn,

that He has done it.

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

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

TUNE: TLH 143—TEXT: LSB 438, STANZAS 1 & 2—A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
“All this I gladly suffer.”</p> | <p>2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,
The Lamb of God, our Savior,
Whom God the Father chose to send
To gain for us His favor.
“Go forth, My Son,” the Father said,
“And free My children from their dread
Of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Your passion they will share
The fruit of Your salvation.”</p> |
|--|---|

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002389

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Response after the reading:

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

TUNE: TLH 140—TEXT: LSB 440, STANZAS 1–4—JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff’ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.</p> | <p>3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.</p> |
| <p>2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.</p> | <p>4 Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev’ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God’s only Son
Suffered without measure?</p> |

The Passion of Our Lord: Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

When they had sung a hymn, Jesus went out, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all be offended because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee."

*Peter answered and said to him, "**Even if all the others deny you, I will never deny you.**"*

Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you this night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

*But Peter said more vehemently, "**If I have to die with you, I will never deny you.**" And all the others said likewise.*

They went over the brook Kidron and came to a place which was called Gethsemane. There was a garden there, and he went into it with his disciples. Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. And when he was at the place, he said to them, "Sit down here, while I go on ahead and pray. Pray that you do not enter into temptation."

He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be full of sorrow and turmoil. Then he said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Wait here, and watch with me." He went on a little from them, about a stone's throw. He fell on his face and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup from me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

An angel appeared to him from heaven, strengthening him; and he prayed, saying, "O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." In agony, he prayed more earnestly, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done." His sweat fell on the ground like great drops of blood.

When he got up from prayer, he came to his disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He went away again the second time and prayed, saying, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, your will be done." When he returned, he found them asleep again; for their eyes were heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. He left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Then he came to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour is come; behold, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. Look, the one who betrays me is here."

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Your deeds, not mine, O Christ,
 Bring gladness to my heart.
They tell me all is done;
 They make my fears depart.
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?</p> <p>2 Your wounds, not mine, O Christ,
 Can heal my battered soul.
Your pain, not mine, contains
 The cure that makes me whole.
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?</p> | <p>3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ,
 Has borne the awful load
Of sins that none could bear
 But the incarnate God.
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?</p> <p>4 Your death, not mine, O Christ,
 Has paid the ransom due.
Ten thousand deaths like mine
 Would have been all too few.
None can atone but You alone.
To whom but You, then, can I go?</p> <p>5 Your righteousness, O Christ, alone can cover me.
 Your goodness is enough to win eternity!
 None can atone but You alone.
 To whom but You, then, can I go?</p> |
|--|---|

Text Public Domain

The Passion of Our Lord: Jesus Arrested

Even while he was saying this, Judas, one of the Twelve, came with a detachment and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees. They came to the place with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon him, went out to them and said, "Whom do you seek?"

*They answered him, "**Jesus of Nazareth.**"*

Jesus said to them, "I am he."

Judas, who betrayed him, had taken his stand with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom do you seek?"

*They said, "**Jesus of Nazareth.**"*

Jesus replied, "I told you that I am he. If I am the one you seek, then let these others go." This was to fulfill the word he had spoken, "Of those you gave me I have lost none."

*Now he that was betraying Jesus had given them a sign, saying, "**The one whom I shall kiss, that is he; seize him and be sure to take him away securely.**" He went straight up to Jesus and said, "**Hail, Master,**" and kissed him.*

Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come? Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

*They came then and laid their hands on Jesus and took him. When those who were about him saw what would happen, they said to him, “**Lord, shall we strike with the sword?**” Then 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.*

Jesus answered, “No more of that.” And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath. All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Do you imagine that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he will send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled that it must be so? The cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink of it?”

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, and the captains of the temple, and the elders who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a thief, with swords and clubs to take me? When I was with you day after day teaching in the temple, you did not lay your hands on me; but this is your hour and the hour of the power of darkness. All this has happened that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples forsook him and fled.

There was a certain young man who followed along. He had only a linen cloth about his naked body. They laid hold on him, but he slipped out of the linen cloth and fled away naked.

Then the detachment and its captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus, and bound him, and led him away to Annas first; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was the one who gave counsel to the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

TUNE: TLH 171—TEXT: TLH 171, ALT.—NAILED, ON A CROSS EXTENDED

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Nailed, on a cross extended,
See, world, your Lord suspended;
Your Savior yields His breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven
Himself has freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.</p> <p>2 Lift up your eyes and study
The Master, bruised and bloody—
The mind is stunned to see.
From depths beyond our knowing,
From His great heart is flowing
Sigh after sigh of agony.</p> | <p>3 How much God hates transgression!
When His wrath finds expression
How loud His thunders roll!
Relentless is His sentence,
His terrifying vengeance!
I see, and shudder in my soul.</p> <p>4 But why, Lord, should it shake You?
Why should it bruise and break You,
His One Beloved Son?
We sinners make confession
Of sins and dark transgressions
But such things You have never done.</p> |
|---|---|

5 It's we who should be beaten.

Our verdict should be written:

Bound hand and foot in hell.

The knotted robes and scourging,

The flood around You surging,

Not You, but we deserve it well.

6 Ours is the load laid on You.

Our weight You took upon You,

That crushed You to the ground.

Ours are the sins You carry,

Our death in death to bury,

To heal us with each bitter wound.

7 Your cords of love, O Savior, bind us to You forever!

Forever we are Yours.

For You, our Kinsman willing, our place with patience filling,

Have made Yourself forever ours!

Text: Public Domain

The Passion of Our Lord: The Palace of the High Priest

Those who had arrested Jesus brought him to the high priest's house, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed him afar off, and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So that other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. He went in and sat with the servants to see the end. He was warming himself at the fire they had kindled in the middle of the courtyard.

*Meanwhile, the chief priests and the whole council were seeking evidence that might make the case for a death sentence, but they could not find any. Many bore false witness against him, but their statements did not agree. Two stepped forward and said, **"We heard him say, 'I shall destroy this temple made with hands and after three days I shall build another, not made with hands.'"** But even on this point their evidence did not agree.*

*Then the high priest stood up, moved to the center, and put this question to Jesus, **"Do you have no answer? What is this evidence they have given against you?"** But he was silent and gave no answer.*

*Again the high priest put a question to him and said, **"Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"** Jesus said, "I am. You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God's power and coming with the clouds of heaven."*

*The high priest tore his garments and said, **"Do we still need any witnesses? You have heard this blasphemy. What is your opinion?"** They all agreed that he was deserving of death.*

*Then some of them began to spit on him; they blindfolded him, struck him, and said to him, **"Prophecy to us, O Christ, who is it that struck you?"** The guards beat him as they took him away.*

*Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maidservants of the high priest came and saw Peter warming himself. She looked at him closely as he sat in the light of the fire, and said, **"You also were along with the man from Nazareth, that Jesus."***

Peter denied it and said, “I do not know what you mean.” He went out to the forecourt.

Another maidservant saw him there and said to those who were standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Peter denied it again with an oath, “I do not know the man.”

A little later those standing around said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them. You are a Galilean. Your accent gives you away.”

Peter started calling down curses on himself and swore, “I do not know the man.”

And immediately while he was still speaking, the cock crowed a second time, and the Lord turned and looked on Peter. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” Peter broke down, and went out, and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was morning the chief priests with the elders and the scribes held the court session with all the Sanhedrin. Then they bound him, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate.

Then Judas, who had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, was sorry and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.”

They said, “What is that to us? That is your affair.” Judas threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed. He went and hanged himself.

The chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.” They took counsel and bought with them the potter’s field to bury strangers in. That is why to this day that field has been called “the field of blood.”

In this way was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by the children of Israel, and gave them for the potter’s field.”

TUNE: TLH 143 – TEXT: LSB 439, STANZAS 1–7—O DEAREST JESUS

- 1 **O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?**
- 2 **They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;
They crucify Thee.**
- 3 **Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,
This I do merit.**

- 4 What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,
Who would not know Him.
- 5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
God is committed.
- 6 O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying
While Thou wert dying.
- 7 O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?
What dare I offer?

Text: Public domain

The Passion of Our Lord: The Praetorium

When they had bound Jesus, they led him from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment and gave him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor. It was early. They themselves did not go into the judgment hall, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.

Pilate then went out to them, and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered and said to him, "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

Then Pilate said to them, "Take him, then, and judge him according to your law."

The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." So the word of Jesus was fulfilled, signifying by what death he should die.

The charges they brought against him were: "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Do you say this for yourself, or did others say it to you about me?"

Pilate answered, "Do you take me for a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have given you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would have fought that I should not be given over to the Jews; but now my kingdom is not of this world."

*Pilate therefore said to him, "**Are you a king then?**"*

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. I was born and I came into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice."

*Pilate said to him, "**What is truth?**"*

*After he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "**I find no fault in this man.**"*

*The chief priests kept laying one charge after another against him, but he answered not a word. Pilate questioned him again, saying, "**Do you answer nothing? See how many charges they lay against you.**" Jesus answered him not a word. Pilate was utterly amazed. He said to the chief priests and the crowd, "**I find no case against this man.**"*

*They pressed their charges more vehemently: "**He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judaea, beginning from Galilee to this place.**"*

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he belonged in Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him on to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem for those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was delighted, for he had long wished to see him because of what he had heard of him, and he hoped to see him do a miracle. He questioned Jesus repeatedly, but he gave him no answer. The chief priests and scribes stood there and vehemently accused him. Herod and his soldiers mocked him. They put a splendid robe on him and sent him back to Pilate.

Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that same day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

*Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "**You have brought this man before me as one subverting the people. See now, I have examined him before you and have found nothing in this man guilty of any of your charges against him, and neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Mark this, he has done nothing worthy of death. I will have him punished and release him.**"*

*Now at the feast it was the governor's custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner whom they asked for. They had then a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. He was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection in the city. Pilate knew that it was out of malice that the chief priests handed Jesus over. Therefore he said to them, "**Do you want me to release for you Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?**"*

The chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

*Pilate asked them again, "**Which of the two do you want me to release for you?**"*

*And they cried out all together, saying, "**Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas.**"*

*While Pilate was sitting in the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message: "**Do not have anything to do with that man; I have suffered much over him today in a dream.**"*

Again Pilate addressed them, for he wished to release Jesus. He said to them, "What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ? What shall I do with him whom you call the King of the Jews?"

They all cried out, "Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found no guilt worthy of death in him; I will therefore punish him and let him go."

They cried out all the louder, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers of the governor led him away into the praetorium. They gathered the whole band of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a purple robe on him. When they had woven a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and a reed in his right hand, and they knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. They knelt down and did him homage.

Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I bring him out to you that you may know I find him not guilty." So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

When the chief priests and officers saw him, they cried, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I do not find him guilty."

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was more afraid and went again into the judgment hall and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify you, and I have power to release you?"

Jesus answered, "You would not have any power at all over me, unless it had been given to you from above. For that reason he who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

This prompted Pilate to go on trying to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement or, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was the Preparation of the Passover, about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your king!"

They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!"

Pilate said unto them, "Shall I crucify your king?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but rather a riot was under way, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this man; see to it yourselves."

Then all the people responded, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Then Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, gave sentence that it should be as they demanded. He released to them Barabbas for whom they asked, the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder. He had Jesus flogged and then gave him over to their will to be crucified. The soldiers mocked him, stripped him of the purple robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

TUNE & TEXT: TLH 169—JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD MOST HOLY

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines, including the word 'Amen'.

1 Je - sus Christ, our Lord most ho - ly, Lamb of God so pure and
2 Weep now, all ye wretch - ed crea - tures, As ye view His gra - cious
3 Christ, His last word hav - ing spo - ken, Bows His head as life is
4 The great veil was torn a - sun - der, Earth did quake mid roars of

low - ly, Blame - less, blame - less, on the cross art of - fered,
fea - tures. Je - sus, Je - sus, on the cross is dy - ing,
bro - ken. Mourn - ful, mourn - ful, stands His moth - er weep - ing,
thun - der, Boul - ders, boul - ders, in - to bits were break - ing;

Sin - less, sin - less, for our sins hast suf - fered.
Na - ture, na - ture, in dark gloom is sigh - ing.
Loved ones, loved ones, si - lent watch are keep - ing.
Saint - ed, saint - ed, dead from death were wak - ing. A - men.

**5 As His side with spear was riven,
Blood and water forth were given.
Jesus, Jesus, sinners' only Savior,
Mercy, mercy, grant to us forever.**

The Passion of Our Lord: Calvary

The soldiers now had charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out of the city to a place called Skull Hill, in Hebrew, Golgotha. As they led him away, they laid hold of Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country. On him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. Following him was a great company of people and of women who bewailed and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said,

“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. The days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck.’ Then they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things with a green tree, what will happen with a dry one?”

There were also two others, criminals whom they led along to be put to death with him. When they came to the place called Golgotha, they gave him wine mingled with gall to drink, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

It was the third hour, and there they crucified him.

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

The two criminals they also crucified with him—one on his right, the other on his left, with Jesus in the middle. The Scripture was then fulfilled which says, “And he was numbered with the transgressors.”

*When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they cast lots to divide his clothes and decide what each should take. They made four parts, one for each soldier. There remained his tunic, which was without seam, woven in one piece from the top to the bottom. They said to one another, “**Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide who shall have it.**” The Scripture was thus fulfilled which says, “They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.” These things the soldiers did and, sitting down, they kept watch over him there.*

*Over his head was put the charge against him. Pilate wrote the notice to be put on the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS. This title was read by many of the Jews, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near to the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, “**You should not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but ‘This man said, I am the King of the Jews.’**”*

*Pilate answered, “**What I have written, I have written.**”*

People stood by, watching. Those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him to one another saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross that we may see and believe. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming to him and offering him wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." The thieves who were crucified with him also reviled him. And one of the criminals who hung there with him railed at him:

"Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are getting what we deserve for what we have done; but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Near to the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of them that were standing there heard it, they said, "He is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus knew that all things were accomplished. Fulfilling the Scripture he said, "I thirst." There was a jar of wine standing there. One of them ran immediately to get a sponge. He filled it with wine, put it on a reed, held it up to his mouth, and gave it to him to drink.

Others said, "Wait and see if Elijah will come and save him."

When Jesus had received the wine, he cried with a loud voice, "It is finished!" Then he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he died, he said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God."

All the people who had gathered to see the sight, when they saw what had happened, turned away beating their breasts. Those who had known him stood at a distance, as also the women who had followed him from Galilee. Among them was Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

TUNE & TUNE: TLH 153—STRICKEN, SMITTEN, AND AFFLICTED

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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!</p> <p>2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to hurt Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.</p> | <p>3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view 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.</p> <p>4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
His 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.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Public Domain

The Passion of Our Lord: The Burial

It was the day of Preparation before the Sabbath, and this was Passover Sabbath. Therefore, so that the bodies should not remain on the crosses during the Sabbath, the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. One who saw it is our witness, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth that you also may believe. These things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they pierced."

By this time evening had come. A respected member of the council, Joseph of Arimathea, was one who was looking for the kingdom of God, a good and righteous man who had not consented to their purpose and deed. He was a disciple of Jesus secretly, for he feared the Jews. Now he took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was astonished that he could be dead already. He called for the centurion and asked him whether Jesus was already dead. When he was assured by the centurion that it was so, Pilate granted Joseph the corpse and commanded that it be given over to him.

Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus. Nicodemus came also, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight. It was he who had first come to Jesus by night. They then took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb, where no one had ever been buried. Joseph laid the body in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock, and rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were sitting there opposite the sepulcher and saw where he was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath day they rested according to the commandment.

On the next day, the day after the Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees went together to Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command that the sepulcher be made secure until the third day to stop his disciples from coming and stealing him and saying to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' making the final deception worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go and make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting a watch.

RESPONSORY

We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

The Sermon

Reflecting on the Passion

PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Before praying the Lord's Prayer together, we pause for silent prayer.

**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.**

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. Amen.

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. Amen.

The Tenebrae

Dear Christian, rest quietly and at peace, pondering His great love for you.

Officiant: Rev. Peter Gregory
Organist: Anne Bennet

Liturgist: Vicar Ed Schneeflock
Acolytes: Ben Paradis, Josiah Paradis

Cover illustration by John Hrehov. Used with permission.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.