



*Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Titus 2:14*

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**9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

**March 29, 2024**

**Grace Lutheran Church of Wayne, Nebraska**

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**As we gather:** Today we stop to meditate on the death of the Son of God on our behalf. The extinguishing of candles one by one signifies the steps of our Lord's passion and his gradual expiration and death on the cross. The removal of the central Christ Candle near the end of the service, symbolizes the death of Jesus and His stay in the tomb. At the conclusion of the service the Christ Candle is brought forth again to remind us of our living hope even in the face of death. The raising of some of the lights slightly indicates that the congregation may now leave in silence.

For our reflection and meditation, following each element of the service we will make use of some of the hymnody in which people of God through the centuries have attempted to fathom this surpassing mystery and to put into words the enormity of His sacrifice and magnitude of His love.

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*All enter in silence.*

**Tolling of the Bell**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
**C** Amen.

**Responsive Reading from Isaiah 52:13—53:12**

- P** He was despised and rejected by men;  
**C** a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;  
**P** and as one from whom men hide their faces  
**C** he was despised, and we esteemed him not.  
**P** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;  
**C** yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

- P** But he was wounded for our transgressions;  
**C** **he was crushed for our iniquities;**  
**P** upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
**C** **and with his stripes we are healed.**  
**P** All we like sheep have gone astray;  
**C** **we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**  
**P** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
**C** **yet he opened not his mouth;**  
**P** 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.  
**C** **By oppression and judgment he was taken away;**  
**P** 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?  
 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death,  
**C** **although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.**

**Epistle Lesson:**

*Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9*

<sup>14</sup>Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For 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. <sup>16</sup>Let 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. <sup>7</sup>In 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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup>And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

**P** This is the word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

♪“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*LSB 425*

- 1 **When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2 **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.**
- 3 **See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4** Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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**Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**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.

**C** Amen.

♪ **“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”**

*LSB 440*

**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.

**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?

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**Sermon: “Lenten Questions: Why Have You Forsaken Me?”**

**Choir Anthem: “Wounded Lamb” (7 p.m. only)**

♪ **“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (9:00 a.m. only)**

*LSB 422*

**1** On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope’s foundation, And my glory and salvation!

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## THE WORDS FROM THE CROSS

### +THE FIRST WORD+

#### Scripture Reading

*Luke 23:32–34*

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

#### ♪ “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

*LSB 451*

- 1 **Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.**
- 2 **Tell me, 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 wound Him, None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.**
- 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.**
- 4 **Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.**

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### +THE SECOND WORD+

#### Scripture Reading

*Luke 23:35–43*

And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “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 sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

♪ **“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

*LSB 450*

- 1 O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.  
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**
- 6 My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;  
Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore!  
When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone,  
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!**
- 7 Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;  
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,  
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.**

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**+THE THIRD WORD+**

**Scripture Reading**

*John 19:25–27*

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, 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 to his own home.

♪ **“Upon the Cross Extended”**

*LSB 453*

- 1 Upon the 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.**
- 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.**

**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.**

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**+THE FOURTH WORD+**

**Scripture Reading**

*Matthew 27:45–47*

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.”

♪ **“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”**

*LSB 437*

**1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov’rign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?**

**2 Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!**

**3 Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures’ sin.**

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**+THE FIFTH WORD+**

**Scripture Reading**

*John 19:28–29*

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A 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.

♪ **“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”**

*LSB 439*

**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.**

**7 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.**

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**+THE SIXTH WORD+**

**Scripture Reading**

*John 19:30a*

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished,"

**♪ "Christ, the Life of All the Living"**

*LSB 420*

**1 Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**+THE SEVENTH WORD+**

**Scripture Reading**

*Luke 23:44–49*

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

*(Pause for silent meditation)*

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

**P** Let 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.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

♪ **Agnus Dei**

LSB198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

**P** Let 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.

**C** Amen.

*After a time of prayer, the congregation departs in silence.*

### Acknowledgments

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