

March 31, 2024

7:00 pm



(Hymns are from the Lutheran Service Book)

THE PRELUDE

“Adagio for Strings”

Barber

WELCOME AND GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” #435



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives)

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns." Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said. A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied. About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking

about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" And they said many other insulting things to him. At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. "If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You say that I am." Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips." Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.

The Second Reading

Luke 23:13-25

(Jesus is condemned)

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him." But the whole crowd shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their

demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

MUSICAL SELECTION

“Near the Cross”

Cathy Carson, Sharon Schmetzer

THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

The Third Reading

Mark 15:15-20

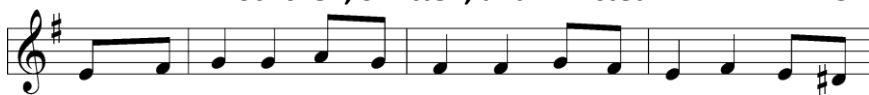
(Jesus is treated harshly)

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

HYMN

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

#451



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



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
 His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
 sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
 wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the



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.

THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

The Fourth Reading

John 19:16-17

(Jesus carries His cross)

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

HYMN

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

#427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance

sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.

THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

The Fifth Reading

Luke 23:27-31

(Jesus meets the women)

A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

#425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?

THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

The Sixth Reading

Mark 15:22-23; John 19:18-25

(Jesus is nailed to the cross)

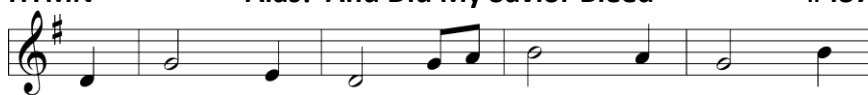
They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that

the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

HYMN

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

#437



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
 2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
 groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
 shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
 grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.

THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS FROM THE CROSS

THE FIRST WORD

Mark 15:25, 27-28; Luke 23:34

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

HYMN “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” #439



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
her - it, This I do mer - it.

THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE SECOND WORD

Mark 15:29, 32; Luke 23:39-43

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days. Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

HYMN

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

#440



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 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.



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,



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.

THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE THIRD WORD

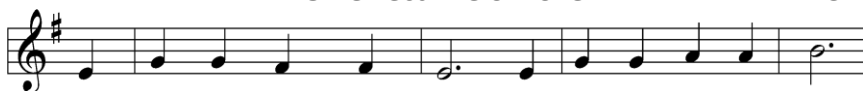
John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

HYMN

"O Perfect Life of Love"

#452



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
 2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;
 3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
 His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
 All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.

THE EIGHTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE FOURTH WORD

Mark 15:33-34

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

HYMN

"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

#447



10 Je - sus, whelmed in fears un - known, With our e - vil
 11 When we seem in vain to pray And our hope seems



left a - lone, While no light from heav'n is shown:
 far a - way, In the dark - ness be our stay:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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THE NINTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE FIFTH WORD


John 19:28

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

HYMN

"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

#447



13 Je - sus, in Your thirst and pain, While Your wounds Your
15 May we thirst Your love to know. Lead us in our
life - blood drain, Thirst - ing more our love to gain:
sin and woe Where the heal - ing wa - ters flow:
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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THE TENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE SIXTH WORD

Mark 15:36; John 19:30

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

MUSICAL SELECTION "On the Via Dolorosa" Choral Ensemble

THE ELEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

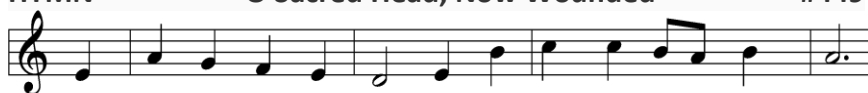
THE SEVENTH WORD

Matthew 17:51, 54; Luke 23:46

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the

earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!” Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” #449



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.

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THE TWELFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE LAST WORD Mark 15:42-46; Matthew 27:57-60

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken softly*)

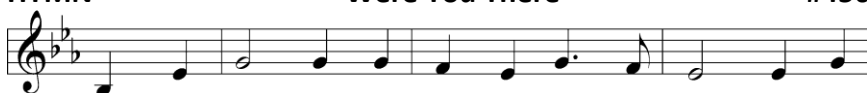
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

HYMN

"Were You There"

#456



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



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



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



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

THE THIRTEENTH CANDLE (symbolizing Christ) is removed from the altar (symbolizing the cross), is taken from the worship area (symbolizing Calvary), and is returned to the chancel area and placed near the baptismal font area (symbolizing the tomb).

The sound of the strepitus is heard, a harsh noise signifying the earthquake at the crucifixion, the closing of the tomb, and the clash between God and Satan.

POSTLUDE “John 19:41 (from Jesus Christ Superstar)”