



March 29, 2024

THE PRELUDE

Organist: Raquel White

A TIME OF GREETING

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB#440

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,
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.

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.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.

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;
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure

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.
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

*THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P He was despised and rejected of all, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, and we hid our faces from him. He was despised, and we knew him not.

C Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. Yet we knew him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

P But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

C All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned each of us to our own ways, and God has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together:

C 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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

HYMN

Above All

by Lenny LeBlanc
and Paul Baloche

Above all powers, above all kings,
Above all nature and all created things;
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.
Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known;
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
There's no way to measure what You're worth.

*Crucified,
laid behind the stone;
You lived to die, rejected and alone.
Like a rose trampled on the ground,
You took the fall, and thought of me
Above all. (Repeat x1)*

SERMON

OFFERING

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

***THE LORDS 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.

THE WATCH

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26:36-45

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." 37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." 40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." 43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. 45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

(The first candle is extinguished)

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB#436

**1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 51: 1-3, 5-6, 10-11

- P** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness.
According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.
- C** **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sins are ever before me.**
- P** Behold, I was raised in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden parts you shall make me to know wisdom.
- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

THE BETRAYAL

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26:47-56

47 While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." 49 And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. 50 Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. 51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" 55 At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. 56 But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

(The second candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

LSB#438

**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."**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 6:1-2, 5

P O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor chasten me in your displeasure.

C Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak. O Lord, heal me in my distress.

P For in death there is no remembrance of you. In the grave who shall give you thanks.

C The Lord has heard my supplication. The Lord will receive my prayer.

THE DENIAL

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26:57-75

57 Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. 58 And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. 59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, 60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61 and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in

three days.’ ” 62 And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” 63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” 64 Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. 66 What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” 67 Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, 68 saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?” 69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” 71 And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” 72 And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” 73 After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” 74 Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

(The third candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

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.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 102:1-2, 11-12

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto you.
- C** **Hide not your face from me in the days when I am in trouble.
Incline your ear unto me when I call.**
- P** My days are like a shadow that wanes, and I am withered like the grass.
- C** **But you, O Lord, shall endure forever, and your remembrance unto all generations.**

THE GUILT

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 27:1-5

27 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. 2 And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor. 3 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed

his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, 4 saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” 5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB#611

**1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 32:1-2, 7, 10

- P** Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are concealed.
- C** **Blessed are they unto whom the Lord punishes not wickedness, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- P** The Lord is our hiding place. He shall protect us from trouble, and shall surround us with songs of deliverance.
- C** **Many sorrows shall be to the wicked, but those who trust in the Lord shall receive mercy.**

THE JUDGEMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23:12-25

12 And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. 13 Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. 15 Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. 16 I will therefore punish and release him.” 18 But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— 19 a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. 20 Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, 21 but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” 22 A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” 23 But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. 24 So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. 25 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

LSB#439

**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?**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 143: 1-2, 9-10

- P** O Lord, rebuke me not in your wrath, neither chasten me in your displeasure.
C **For my iniquities are gone over my head, and as a heavy burden, I can bear them all.**
P I am troubled. I am bowed down greatly. I go mourning all the day long.
C **I am feeble and sore broken. I have cried out by reason of the disquietness of my heart.**
P My heart pants. My strength fails me. The light of my eyes is gone from me.
C **Forsake me not, O Lord. O my God, be not far from me.**

THE CRUCIFIXION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23:26-34

26 And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. 27 And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. 28 But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' 31 For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" 32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 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. 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

How Great Thou Art

LSB#801

**3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 52:13---53:3

- P** Behold, My Servant shall act wisely;
C **He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.**
P As many were astonished at you---

C His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind---

P so shall He sprinkle many nations;

C kings shall shut their mouths because of Him;

P for that which has not been told them they see,

C and that which they have not heard they understand.

P Who has believed what he has heard from us?

C And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

P For He grew up before Him like a young plant,

C and like a root out of dry ground;

P He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him,

C and no beauty that we should desire Him

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.

THE CONDEMNATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23:39-47

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." 44 It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 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. 47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB#425

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?</p> |
| <p>3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!</p> | <p>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!</p> |

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 130

- P** Out of the depths have I cried unto you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice, and let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.
- C** If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with you, that you might be feared.
- P** I will wait for the Lord. My soul waits, and in his word do I hope.
- C** My soul waits for the Lord more than they who watch for the morning.

All: Let us hope in the Lord. For with the Lord there is mercy and with him is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem us from all our iniquities.

SCRIPTURE VERSE

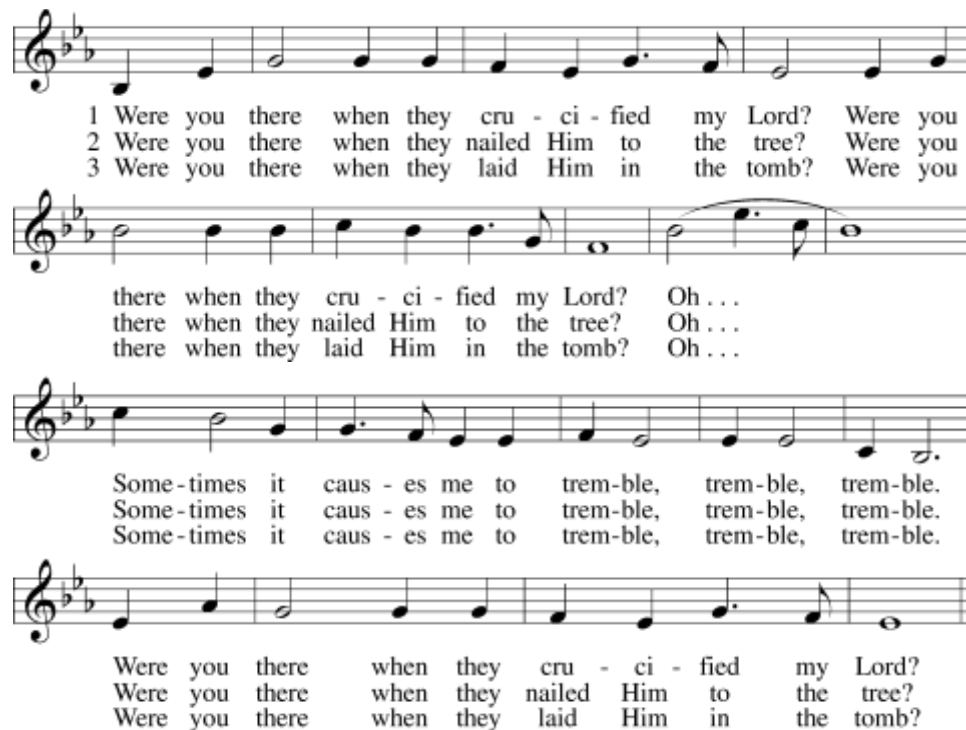
John 16:16

- P** Jesus said, "A little while and you shall not see me, and again, a little while, and you shall see me."

HYMN

Were You There

LSB#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 congregation and worship leaders depart in silence at will.