



*The*  
*To the*

# JOURNEY CROSS

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
210 North Wayne Street  
Saint Marys, OH 45885

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

March 29, 2024

7:00 p.m.

**We Remember - In Silence**

On this day we remember that Jesus was taken before Pilate and Herod for examination and condemnation by the religious leaders of Israel. We remember that even though Pilate found Jesus innocent of the charges brought against him, he had Jesus scourged and finally crucified on a cross, outside the city walls of Jerusalem, in the same manner as the worst criminals. Jesus was crucified on Golgotha, also known as Mt. Calvary. His cross stood alongside a major road leading into Jerusalem. As people traveled past, they could, and often did, taunt those hanging on crosses. They could, and often would throw stones as well. Those being crucified died a horrible, humiliating, torturously slow, death. They were nailed to the cross naked and fully exposed to the environment - sun, wind, rain, cold, heat, birds, insects, etc. Death occurred by suffocation, as the weight of the person, combined with injuries, dehydration, cramping and exhaustion, made it no longer possible for him/her to push themselves up by their feet and exhale the carbon dioxide from their body. We remember the cost God willing paid (the death of his son), the cost Jesus willing paid (giving up his life) in order that we might be reconciled to God and receive the gift of salvation. We remember without this day there would be no Easter, no bodily resurrection, no

healing between God and us. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are the holiest days in the Christian faith. These days define who we are, and whose we are. It is why we meet on Sunday mornings, and why we rejoice in life, even with its trials and sorrows. Tonight's worship service is a continuation of last night's service. That is why we did not sing a sending hymn last night. Please observe silence and reverence in the sanctuary before and after this service and reflect upon what God has done for us on this day.

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PRELUDE

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

Smith

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### READING Psalm 22

Reader: Stephanie Ross

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**<sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.**

<sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**<sup>4</sup> In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

<sup>5</sup> To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

**<sup>6</sup> But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.**

<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

**<sup>8</sup> "Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver —let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"**

- <sup>9</sup> Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- <sup>10</sup> **On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**
- <sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
- <sup>12</sup> **Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**
- <sup>13</sup> they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.
- <sup>14</sup> **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;**
- <sup>15</sup> my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup> **For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;**
- <sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;
- <sup>18</sup> **they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.**
- <sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!
- <sup>20</sup> **Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!**
- <sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
- <sup>22</sup> **I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**
- <sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

- 24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**
- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!**
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- 28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**
- 29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- 30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD,**
- 31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

#### **OFFERING COLLECTED**

**Choir**      *When the Cross Held Up the Sky*

#### **SOLEMN REPROACHES**

**P:** O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C:** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

L: O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me. Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for you Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

L: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

**L: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.**

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

**A BRIEF WORD** - The lights will dim after each reading.

**HYMN** "Jesus in thy Dying Woes" (vs. 1-6) Insert  
**READING** Matthew 26:17-25; 36-46  
The Betrayal/The Agony Reader: Linda Yahl

**HYMN** "Jesus in thy Dying Woes" (vs. 7-12) Insert  
**READING** Luke 22:42-62  
The Arrest/The Denial Reader: Ruth Hoenie

**HYMN** "Jesus in thy Dying Woes" (vs. 13-18) Insert  
**READING** Mark 15:1-32  
The Trial Reader: Dora McAfee

**HYMN** "Jesus in thy Dying Woes" (vs. 19-21) Insert  
**READING** John 19:23-40; Matthew 27:59-66  
The Crucifixion Reader: Pastor Bill

## DARKNESS AND DEATH

**Removal of the Light of Christ** - By this time, all of the lights in the sanctuary should be out except the Christ Candle sitting upon the Altar. This light represents the very life of our Lord in the world. This light will be removed from the sanctuary and is extinguished in the narthex. Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Light of the World, is dead. The world is plunged into darkness.

**Silence** - Take a few moments to reflect upon the weight of sin pressing down on Jesus as he hung there on the cross and ask yourself, how much weight did your sins add?

Leave in Silence after "Were You There?"

Singer: Bob Henschlager

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| USHERS .....                               | Jody Slemmons, Dora McAfee, Rhonda Weaver,<br>..... Dianne Uhlenhake           |
| ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR.....               | Merilee Miller   |
| PIANIST .....                              | Miriam Johns   |
| DIRECTOR OF BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION..... | ..... Mindy Thiebeau, <a href="mailto:zionbpe@gmail.com">zionbpe@gmail.com</a> |
| OFFICE MANAGER .....                       | Kathy Bishir, <a href="mailto:kbishir@hotmail.com">kbishir@hotmail.com</a>     |
| LAY LEADER.....                            | Heidi Yahl, <a href="mailto:heidiyahl@yahoo.com">heidiyahl@yahoo.com</a>       |
| PASTOR .....                               | William Maki, <a href="mailto:wllmmaki@yahoo.com">wllmmaki@yahoo.com</a>       |
| MINISTERS .....                            | Congregation Members   |
| CHURCH WEBSITE.....                        | <a href="http://www.zionstmarys.org">www.zionstmarys.org</a>                   |
| CHURCH OFFICE.....                         | 419-394-3115   |