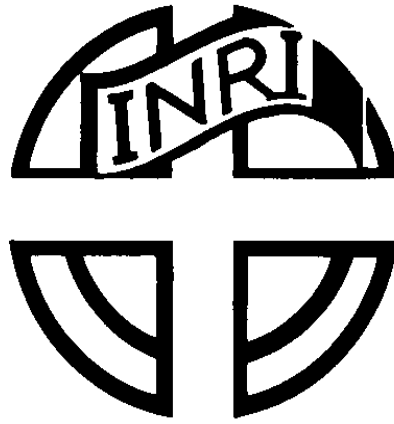


TENEBRAE VESPERS

GOOD FRIDAY



Messiah Lutheran Church
Keller, Texas
March 29, 2024



GOOD FRIDAY



To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient church held a special devotional service at the end of Holy Week called *Tenebrae*, which means "darkness." It is characterized by reading of Christ's seven words from the cross, along with the successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. This symbolizes the fading light of the world as Christ was departing from it, reminding us of the events that led to utter darkness on Good Friday. The final candle (the Christ candle) is not extinguished but removed until Sunday morning, symbolizing our Lord's burial. The *strepitus* is heard, a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb. All leave in silence.

Tenebrae Vespers

Stand

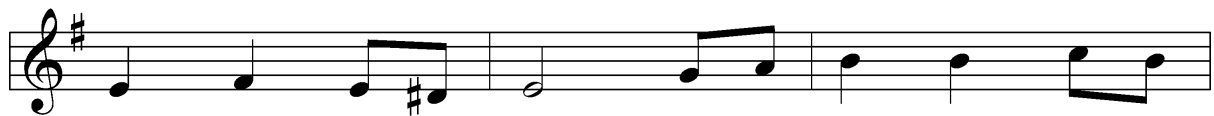
Opening Hymn: 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted



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
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



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.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

Opening Versicles

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Introit: *Sung by the choir*

Isaiah 53:5, Psalm 38:1-4, 18, 22

*He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.*

*O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger, nor discipline me in Your wrath!
For Your arrows have sunk into me, and Your hand has come down on me.*

*There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation,
there is no health in my bones because of my sin.
For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too
heavy for me.*

*I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin
Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation!*

*He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.*

Psalmody: Psalm 31

Choir: Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me,
O LORD, faithful God.

Congregation: REFRAIN



In - to Your hand I com - mit my — spir - it;

You have re - deemed me, O LORD, faith - ful God.



¹In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;*
in your righteousness de- | liver me!

²Incline your ear to me; rescue me | speedily!*
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to | save me!

³**For you are my rock and my | fortress;***
and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me;

⁴**you take me out of the net they have hidden | for me,***
for you are my | refuge.

⁵Into your hand I commit my | spirit;*
you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.

⁶I hate those who pay regard to worthless | idols,*
but I trust | in the LORD.

⁷**I will rejoice and be glad in your | steadfast love,***
because you have seen my affliction;
you have known the distress | of my soul,

⁸**and you have not delivered me into the hand of the | enemy;***
you have set my feet in a | broad place.

REFRAIN

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress;*
my eye is wasted from grief;
my soul and my body | also.

¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with | sighing;*
my strength fails because of my iniquity,
and my bones | waste away.

¹¹**Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,**
especially to my neighbors,
and an object of dread to my ac- | quaintances;*
those who see me in the street | flee from me.

¹²**I have been forgotten like one | who is dead;***
I have become like a broken | vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many—
terror on | every side!—*
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to | take my life.

¹⁴But I trust in you, | O LORD;*
I say, “You | are my God.”

¹⁵**My times are | in your hand;*
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my perse- | cutors!**

¹⁶**Make your face shine on your | servant;*
save me in your | steadfast love!**

REFRAIN

¹⁷O LORD, let me not be put to shame,
for I call up- | on you;*
let the wicked be put to shame;
let them go silently | to Sheol.

¹⁸Let the lying | lips be mute,*
which speak insolently against the righteous
in pride | and contempt.

¹⁹**Oh, how abundant is your goodness,
which you have stored up for those who | fear you*
and worked for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of the children of | mankind!**

²⁰**In the cover of your presence you hide them
from the | plots of men;*
you store them in your shelter
from the | strife of tongues.**

²¹Blessèd | be the LORD,*
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
when I was in a besieged | city.

²²I had said in my alarm,
“I am cut off | from your sight.”*
But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy
when I cried to | you for help.

²³**Love the LORD, all | you his saints!*
The LORD preserves the faithful
but abundantly repays the one who | acts in pride.**

²⁴**Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,*
all you who wait | for the LORD!**

REFRAIN

Sit

Anthem: “Fall, Slow Tears,” by Ruth Elaine Schram

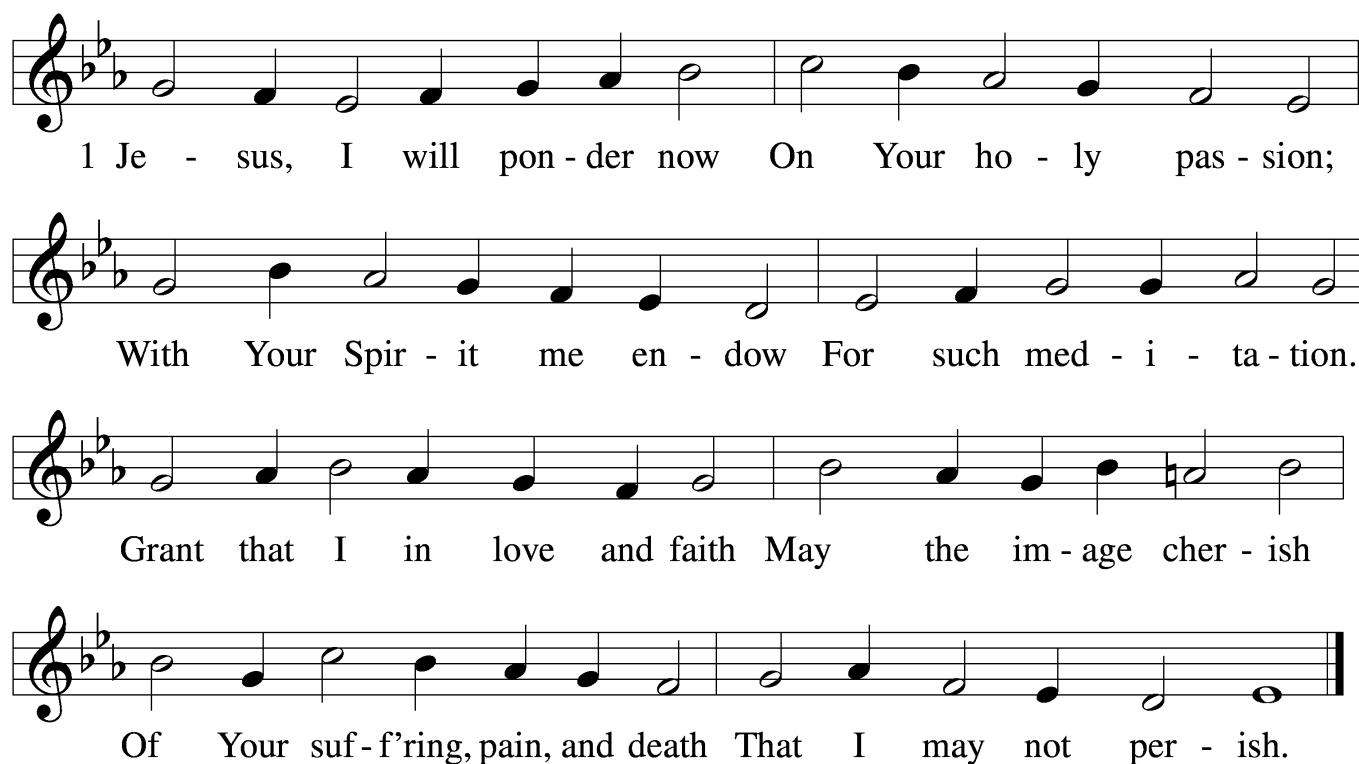
Based on Psalm 51:10-11

SEPTUM VERBA

P The seven last words of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the four Gospels.

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

st. 1



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
Text and tune: Public domain

The First Word

Luke 23:34

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

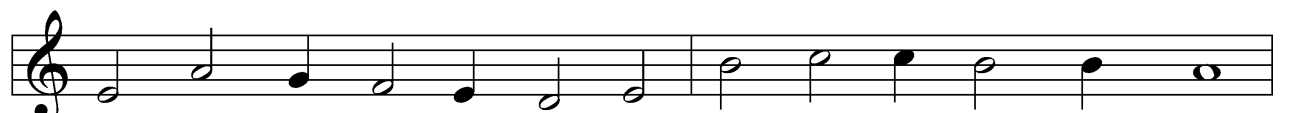
C Thanks be to God.

Meditation


A candle is extinguished.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded


st. 1




1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weighed down,



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!



Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.

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The Second Word

Luke 23:43

P O Lord, have mercy on us.


C Thanks be to God.

Meditation


A candle is extinguished

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

st. 2



2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!



How doth Thy face now lan - guish That once was bright as morn!



Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;



Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

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The Third Word

John 19:26-27

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

st. 3



3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;



Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

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The Fourth Word

Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

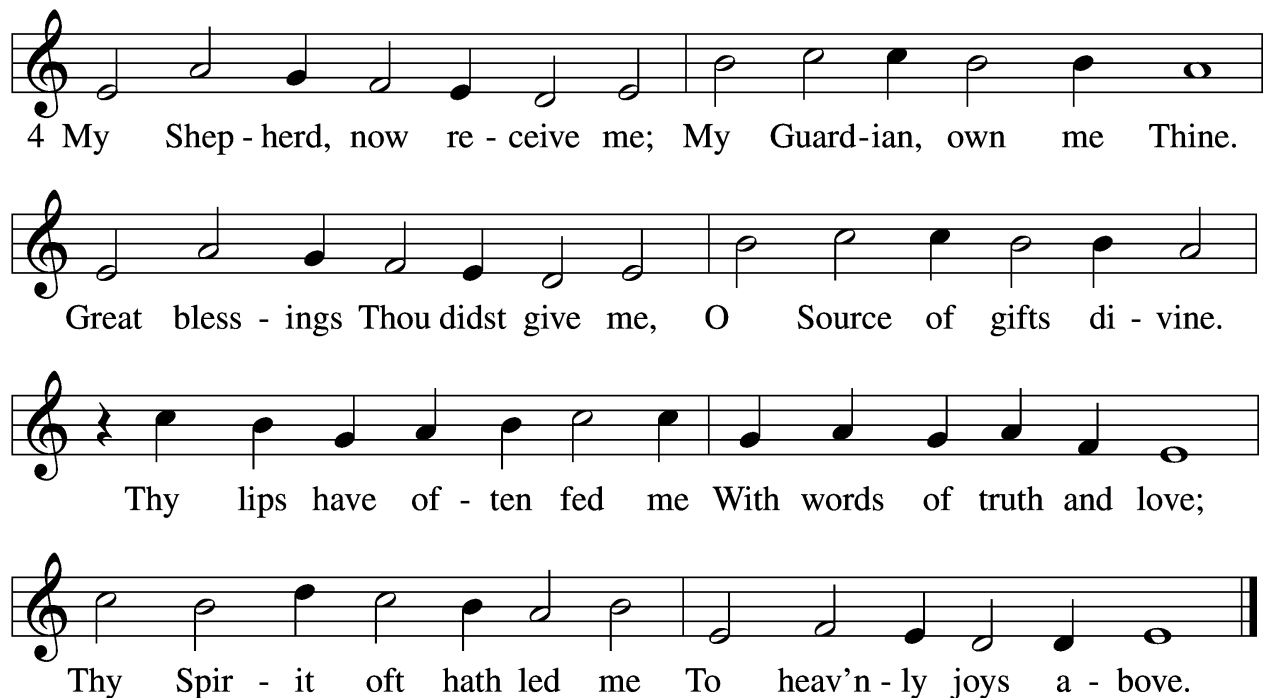
C Thanks be to God.

Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

st. 4



4 My Shep - herd, now re - ceive me; My Guard-ian, own me Thine.
Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.
Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;
Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.

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The Fifth Word

John 19:28

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

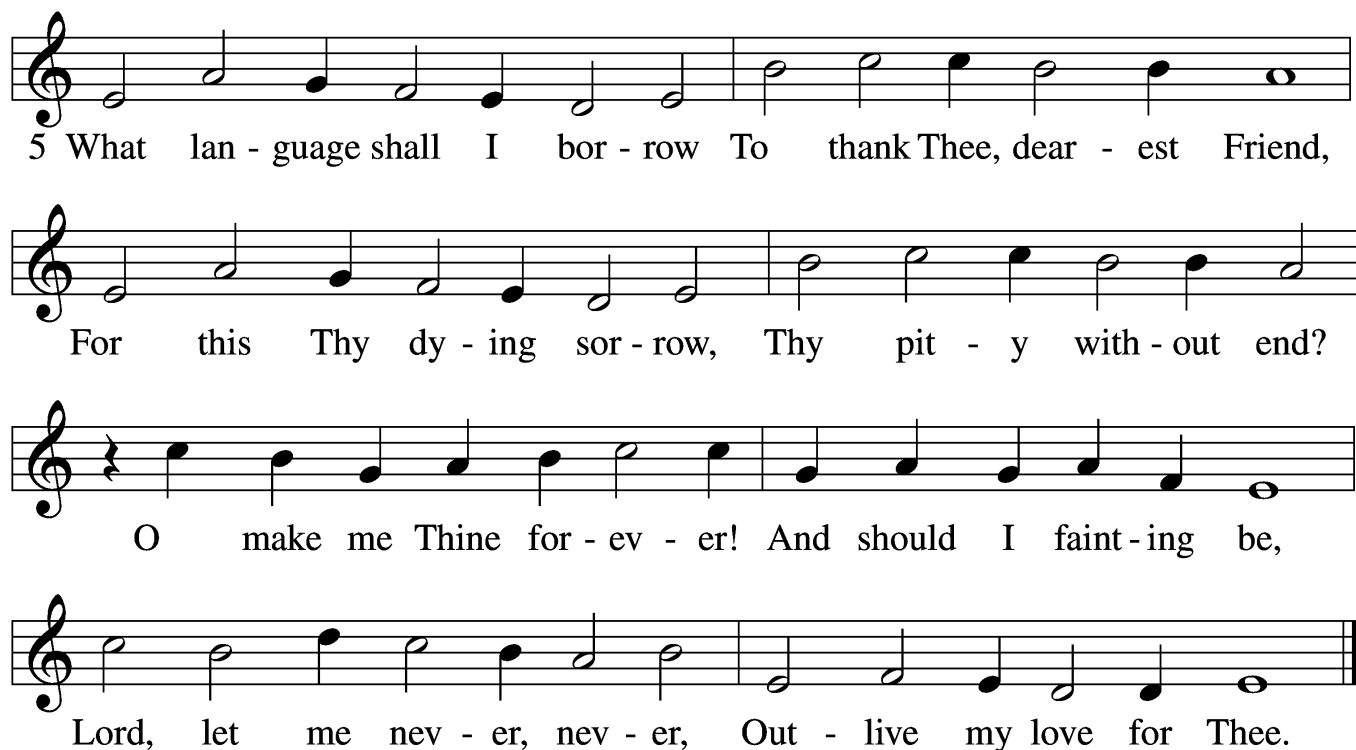
C Thanks be to God.

Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

st. 5



5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.

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The Sixth Word

John 19:30

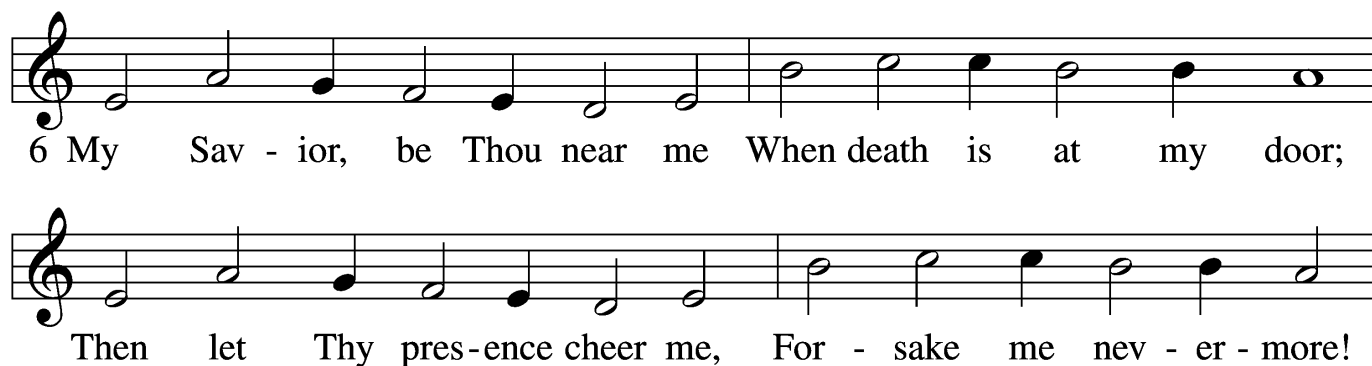
- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Meditation

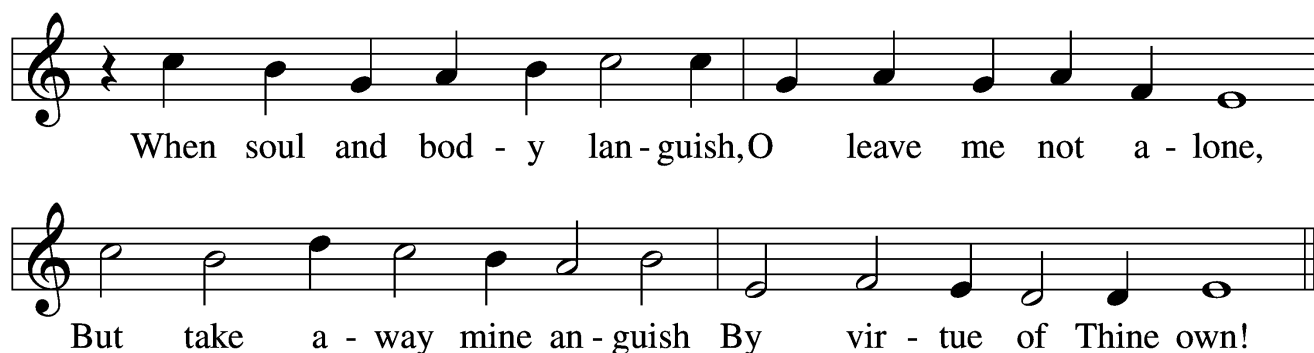
A candle is extinguished

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

st. 6



6 My Sav - ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
 Then let Thy pres - ence cheer me, For - sake me nev - er - more!



Stand

The Seventh Word

Luke 23:46

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

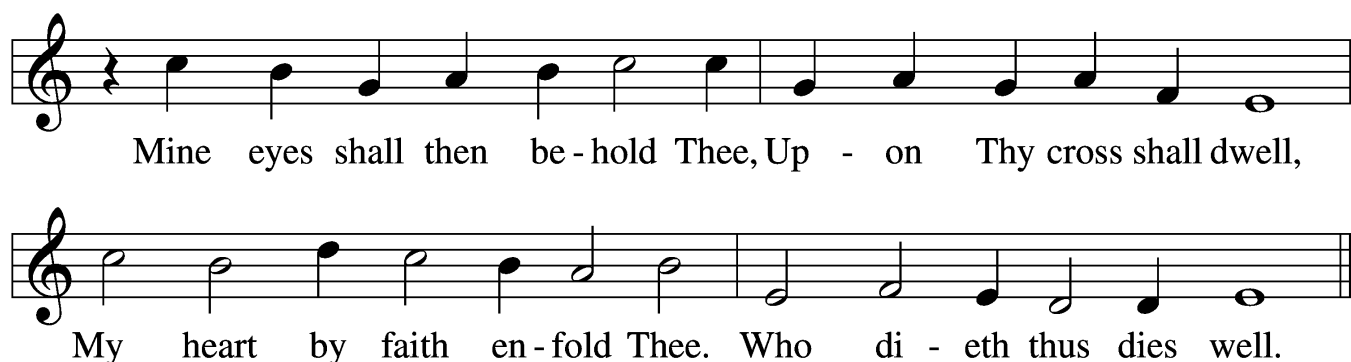
Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

st. 7





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Responsory

- P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
- P** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.
- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
- P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

Choir only on st. 1 & 3



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; Sing the end - ing
2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness Of the ap - point - ed
3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished, He went forth from
4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, Be for all the
△ 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther



of the fray. Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,
time was come, He, the Word, was born of wom - an,
Naz - a - reth, Des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,
no - blest tree; None in fo - liage, none in blos - som,
and the Son, To the e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or



Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay; Tell how Christ, the
Left for us His Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of
Did His work, and met His death; Like a lamb He
None in fruit thine e - qual be; Sym - bol of the
Now and ev - er - more be done; Praise and glo - ry



world's re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.
true o - be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.
hum - bly yield - ed On the cross His dy - ing breath.
world's re - demp - tion, For the weight that hung on thee!
in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

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Anthem: “Adoramus Te,” by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

(Text translation is the “Adoration of Christ” at the end of this service)

Stand

THE PRAYERS

Litany

L O Lord,

Chave mercy.

L O Christ,

Chave mercy.

L O Lord,

Chave mercy.

L O Christ,

Chear us.

L God the Father in heaven,

Chave mercy.

L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Chave mercy.

L God the Holy Spirit,

Chave mercy.

L Be gracious to us.

CSpare us, good Lord.

L Be gracious to us.

CHelp us, good Lord.

L From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

CGood Lord, deliver us.

C Good Lord, deliver us.

L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

L We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need; To direct and defend our *president* and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C We implore You to hear us.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

L O Christ,

C hear us.

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

L O Christ,

C have mercy.

L O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

Lords Prayer

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.

L Call on Me in the day of trouble.

C I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me.

L Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins. Though by our continual transgressions we have merited Your chastisements, be gracious to us. Grant that all these punishments which we have deserved may not come upon us, but that all things may work to our everlasting good; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

St.2 choir only

Setting by F. Melius Christiansen



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Tune and text: Public domain

Collects

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.

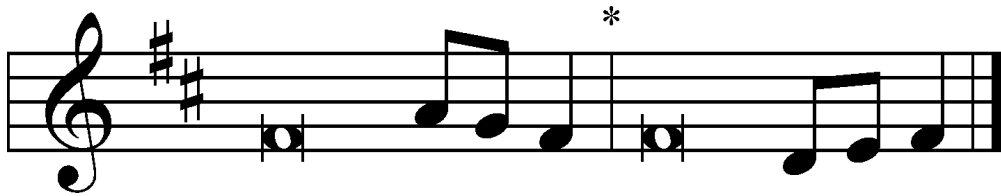
P Let us pray.

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.

ADORATION OF CHRIST

(The Christ Candle is Removed)



C We adore You, | O Lord,*
and we praise and glorify
Your holy resur- | rection.
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross*
joy has come into | all the world.
God be merciful to us and | bless us,*
and cause His face to shine upon us, and
have mercy up- | on us.
We adore You, | O Lord,*
and we praise and glorify
Your holy resur- | rection.
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross*
joy has come into | all the world.

THE STREPTUS

(A loud noise is made to signify the sealing of the tomb.)

The congregation leaves in silence and minimal light.

Acknowledgments

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book
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*He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5