



Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name**

Good Friday: Tenebrae

7 p.m., April 3, 2026



Life and death stand side by side on Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

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Pastor Eric Olaf Olsen | pastor@faithlutheransrq.com | 716-352-0055

Minister
Assisting Ministers
Lector
Music Director

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Marianne Powrie; Rev. Larry Wright
Deacon Scott Rice
Andi Zdrava

PRELUDE

WE STAND

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: John 1:1-4, 9-11

P: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

HYMN

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

ELW 351



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

WE SIT

P: DESPISED AND REJECTED: Isaiah 53:3-6

³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

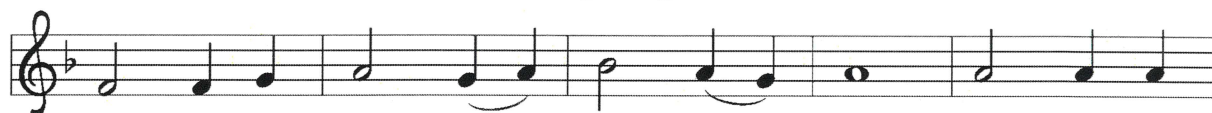
WE STAND

HYMN

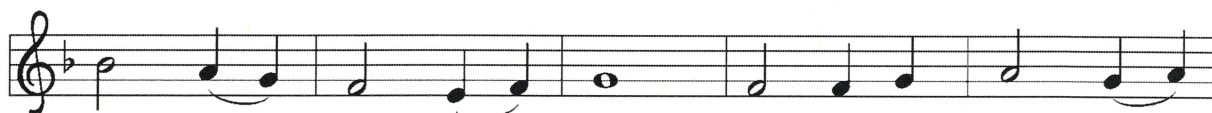
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

We sing together



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
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



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
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



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?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

FIRST READING: "The Watch" - Matthew 26:36-41

P: ³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴²Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

ANTHEM

Lacrimosa
Voices of Faith Choir

Mozart

The first candle is extinguished.

WE SIT

SECOND READING: "The Betrayal" - Matthew 26:47-56

P: ⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

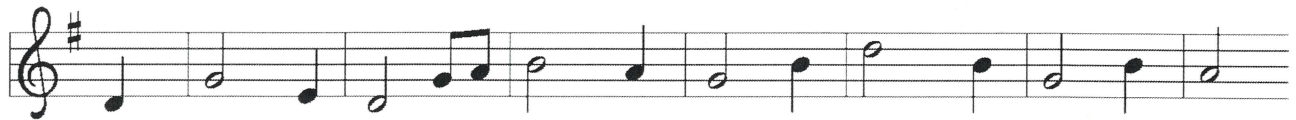
⁵¹Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send

me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

WE STAND

HYMN OF MEDITATION Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed ELW 337
Verses 1-2



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov - 'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

The second candle is extinguished.

WE SIT

THIRD READING: "The Denial" - Matthew 26:57-75

P: ⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.

⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" ⁶²The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against

you?" ⁶³But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." ⁶⁴Jesus 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." ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." ⁷¹When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷²Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." ⁷³After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." ⁷⁴Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. ⁷⁵Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

WE STAND

HYMN OF MEDITATION **Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed** **ELW 337**
Verses 3-4
See previous page

The third candle is extinguished.

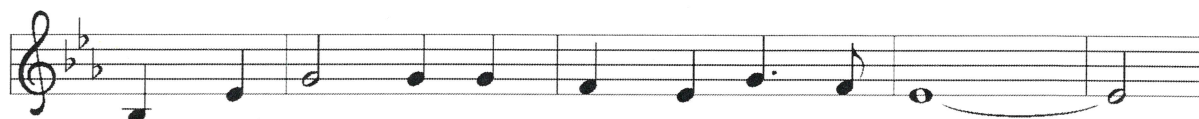
WE SIT

FOURTH READING: "The Guilt" - Matthew 27:1-5

P: ¹When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. ³When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." ⁵Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

WE STAND

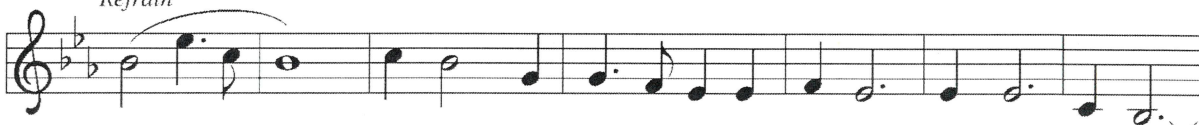
Verses 1-2



- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



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 pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Refrain

Oh, 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 pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual

The fourth candle is extinguished.

WE SIT

FIFTH READING: "The Judgment" - Luke 23:12-25

P: ¹²That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him

back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶I will therefore have him flogged and release him." ¹⁸Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" ¹⁹(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²²A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

He is being crucified.

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

WE STAND

HYMN OF MEDITATION Were You There?

ELW 353

Verses 3-4

See previous page

The fifth candle is extinguished.

WE SIT

SIXTH READING: "The Crucifixion" - Luke 23:26-31

P: ²⁶As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

P: He is being crucified.

C: Have mercy on us.

WE STAND

Verse 5

See previous page

The sixth candle is extinguished.

WE SIT

SEVENTH READING: "The Commendation" - Luke 23:39-47

P: ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

ANTHEM

The seventh candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation

*As the last light leaves us,
we know the potent truth of the death of
Jesus, the light of the world.*

The Paschal Candle leaves the sanctuary.

BIDDING PRAYER

P: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

C: Amen.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit, guide the church and gather it throughout the world.

Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for Elizabeth and Pedro, our bishops; for Eric, Larry, Marianne, John and John, our pastors; for Andi, our music minister; for Linda, our assistant; for Kelly and Jen, our consultants; for our lectors, cantors and for all people of God.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus, your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care, and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any

trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. For the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, and for all who experience violence, we ask for lasting and just peace. We especially pray for all on our prayer list, and for those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts. (*pause*) We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray together softly tonight, using the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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.

THE VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

P: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship Christ.

P: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship Christ.

P: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship Christ.

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: Oh, come, let us worship Christ.

P: By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. The Tomb is sealed.

THE STREPITUS

There is no benediction since this service is only one part of the three-day celebration of the cross and resurrection, reaching its climax in the Easter Vigil. After the service is concluded, you may remain in prayer and reflection as long as you desire. When you are finished, please keep silence.

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