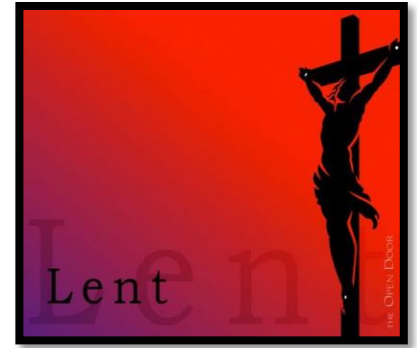




**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**  
**Friday, March 29th, 2024**  
**Good Friday Worship 7 PM CT**  
**SPIRIT-LED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN**



**GATHERING** The Holy Spirit calls us together  
as the people of God

**MEDITATION MUSIC** *Lead Me to Calvary*

from *Music for Worship, Distinctive Hymn Tune Settings for Organ*  
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**WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** by Worship Asst. & Pastor

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In this Friday Worship Service, you will hear John's Passion account, in which Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. We further imagine in our other Story told today between LIFE and DEATH within the Court System held by JUSTICE. Let us be open to the Word of GOD.

**CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 22** Read Responsively by Worship Asst. & ALL (In Bold)

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me,  
so far from the words of my groaning?

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.**

<sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup>**But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.**

<sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

<sup>8</sup>**“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup>**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in  
my mother's womb.**

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

<sup>12</sup>**Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

<sup>13</sup>They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

<sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet.**

<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

<sup>18</sup>**They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.**

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

<sup>20</sup>**Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

<sup>22</sup>**I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise!  
May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

### **Prayer of the Day** by Pastor

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN – Go to Dark Gethsemane ELW # 347** (Public Domain) see page 3

*The verses will be sung throughout the Passion Reading*

- 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.**

## Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;  
 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;  
 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;

your Re-deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!  
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854  
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

**READING OF THE GOSPEL: John 18:1 through 19:42 with verses sung**

*On Good Friday, the story of Jesus' passion—from his arrest to his burial—is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.*

**Pastor:** <sup>1</sup>[Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” <sup>5</sup>They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. <sup>11</sup>Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

<sup>12</sup>So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

**Mary:** <sup>15</sup>Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” <sup>18</sup>Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

<sup>9</sup>Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup>Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” <sup>26</sup>One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” <sup>27</sup>Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

**Sing Verse 2 Follow to the judgment hall,  
view the Lord of life arraigned;  
oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
learn from him to bear the cross.**

**Pastor:** <sup>28</sup>Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup>(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

<sup>33</sup>Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup>Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup>They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

<sup>19:1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

**Mary:** <sup>8</sup>Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." <sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

<sup>13</sup>When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" <sup>15</sup>They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." <sup>16</sup>Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

<sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup>So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."  
<sup>25</sup>And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

(PLEASE STAND)

### **SING VERSE 3**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry;  
learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

*Pastor:* <sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced." <sup>38</sup>After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### **SING VERSE 4**

**Early hasten to the tomb,  
where they laid his breathless clay;  
all is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.  
Savior, teach us so to rise.**



Image by <a href="https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/still-life-with-scales-justice\_33123993.htm#query=justice%20scale&position=6&from\_view=keyword&track=ais&uuid=0c162ed4-8cb2-4885-93ef-eb111df8b285">Freepik</a>

**HOMILY - *The Case of Death or Life*** *Pastor introduces this Case*  
**Seven people enter the room: John - Justice, Megan – Life, Linda- Woman, Lisa – Death, Deidre – Truth, and Will – Person 1**

(Justice **John C.** is seated behind large table on which scales and weights are on the table by scales. Others come up in front of the justice.)

Updated Play Based on Pastor's Mother's *The Paramount Easter Book* – copyright 1923, which included Plays which were called THE JOYFUL NEWS and DEATH and LIFE. (now under Public Domain)

**Will - Person 1** - I wonder where He is. The other day I saw Him at a time when He had need of me and I could serve Him. Oh, I wish that He would come again and ask for food! Oh, how I might have watched more closely! What might have I noticed?

(Then sees the Cross! And is very upset!)

The cross! My mother said that He would die upon that cross! I will never see Him again, but I just thought she did not know. Is it true? Can He be Dead? Or is He Alive?

(2 Others (Truth and Life) walk up together)

**Deidre - Truth**-Yes, it's true. I stood within the shadow, and saw them take away our Lord.

**Megan - Life**- Did none of the disciples, who followed Him these many months, stop them?

**Deidre - Truth**-They stayed a while. The one called Peter was within the court and I heard him three times deny that he knew Jesus, the Christ!

**Megan - Life**- Oh, and I heard Peter was out in the garden, too, and Yes, he denied and he said that he did not know Jesus, no matter what should come!

**Deidre - Truth**- Well, let's face it - he was human. It's probably just like what we would do if we were in the same situation!

**Megan - Life**- hey I see somebody over there is that the same person who gave Jesus the same loaves and fish to feed the multitude?

**Deidre - Truth**-- looks the same to me! (**Facing Person 1**) Son, tell us why you weep?

**Will Person 1**- oh I came to see the Lord! I have three more fish and loaves to give him today!

**Deidre - Truth**- Sorry he's not here! He died on the cross, and has been buried in an unused tomb!

**Will Person 1**- I'm heartbroken! he's dead? THIS Cannot be!

**Deidre - Truth**- but nonetheless, it is!

**Megan - Life**- He said he would Rise!

**Will Person 1**- Oh, then he will, for all he says, is true!

**Deidre - Truth**- But -when you look at the cross, it had no promise that He will arise!

**Will Person 1**- and yet maybe?

[Pause]

**John C. Justice** – and what great matter comes before the court today? IS It the case of Life or Death?

[Nodding of heads]

**John C. Justice** – (turning to Death) now, DEATH - what have you to say?

**Lisa - Death** – I say that all people die! And I am king, and that no power can conquer me!

**John C. Justice** (turning to life) -and you, LIFE?



**Megan - Life** – I say, there is none who can conquer over life;  
death is just a door that enters into heaven.

**John C. Justice** – Bring me witnesses!

**John C. Justice** (turning to Truth) -TRUTH - Do you know these two?

**Deidre - Truth** (turning to Life and Death)– I do!

**John C. Justice** – you know that Death proclaims power over all the earth?

**Deidre - Truth** – well, I know that Death says it does. Yeah, I know more since humans come to death; but a certain man also came the resurrection of the dead.

**John C. Justice** – and you have proof?

**Deidre - Truth** – yes, proof- I have plenty of proof!

**Megan - Life - Woman** , are you sure you want to speak about this?

**Linda - Woman** - As sure as I'm here! He spoke to the crowd himself! He is the Temple, once fallen in 3 Days, he said that He could rebuild it!

**John C. Justice** - Why? What is this you say... that if the temple were torn down, he could rebuild it in three days!

**Lisa - Death** - a Figment of the imagination- a figment of the crowds wanting him to be a hero!

**Deidre - Truth**- and what about how he prayed?

**Will Person 1- YES**, I heard him pray to God. The disciples were falling asleep in the garden last night. And yet, Jesus asked them to stay awake while he prayed he asked God his father, to take the cup away from his lips, but then said let it be your Will, not mine.

**Lisa - Death** - See the flowers, they fade and die.

**Deidre - Truth**- Remember the ugly bulbs, though, they seemed dead, they foster and spring forth life and the lilies bloom, and the air will be filled with their fragrance! That is life!

**Lisa - Death** - I have ruled the hearts of people with fear for many years, I cannot now lay down my arms and honor life!

**John C. Justice** – The evidence is great on both sides however, how shall the scales lean?

**Deidre - Truth** – oh, death is a change that can welcome people to life. (faces Death) You are a part of life.

**John C. Justice**- You might have counted... And WHO is the other Person that entered?

It is you. You are our # 7 – Do you believe in Jesus, the One who though he died, is to bring you SALVATION? IS He Dead or Alive in YOU?

**PRAYERS** – *You are now Invited to COME and PRAY – one side at the rail or also with Pastor. Please LIGHT CANDLES in the Cross - SEND in Prayers Requests: Please Text-in-Church 314.329.0487 or Email at [Office@holycrosselca.com](mailto:Office@holycrosselca.com)*

**SENDING HYMN** – *Were You There*

**TONIGHT at 7 PM** at end of Worship we will strip the Altar...

**DISMISSAL** *The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God. [And we leave in SILENCE!]



**WE ARE GRATEFUL! Pastor:** Janice Hawley **Lay Assistants:** Mary Bailey / Mike Prange **A/V Volunteers:** Court Templeton, Philip Paul, Mark Rudolph, Carrie Curnutte, Dave Ristau **Organist:** Jack Hamill and All rights reserved from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com). Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. *Reprinted / Podcast and Streamed with permission Under One License #A-733788*

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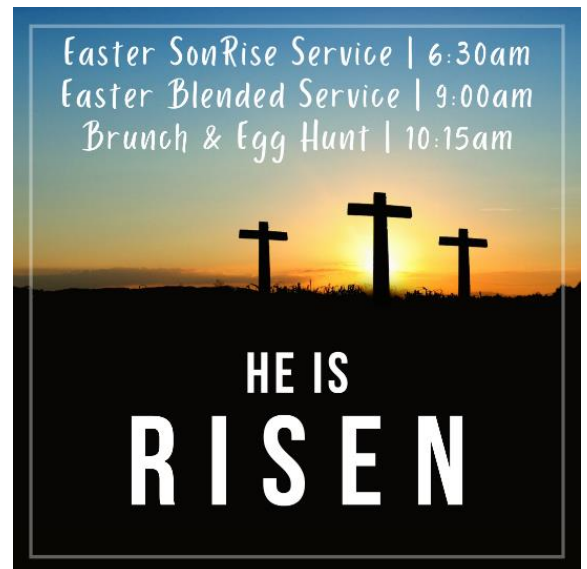
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Saturday – Vigil at St. Mark’s Lutheran

Easter Sunday – Holy Cross @6:30am & 9am

Followed by Brunch in Fellowship Hall and Easter Egg Hunt



# Were You There

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 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?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 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? Were you there?

*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?  
 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? Were you there?

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual  
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