

THE WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Chad E. Hoover

Liturgist: Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer

Lector: Rev. David O. Stecker

Organist: Doug Reynolds

Choir: Adult Choir

Acolyte: Viviana Hernandez

Elder: John Colter

Ushers: Group 3 (Mark Schuller)

Good Friday Tenebrae

Service of Darkness

April 3, 2026 ~ 7:00 p.m.

The congregation and pastors enter in silence.

AS WE GATHER ~ On the day the sun stopped shining (Luke 23:45), Jesus Christ offered His life in our place upon the cross. The darkness of our sinful souls was placed upon the sinless Son of God. Ridden with the sins of the whole world, Jesus exchanged places with us. He died our death so that we may know His life. He who knew no sin became sin for us. He cried “Eloi!” so that we could cry “Abba!” He was forsaken so that we can be embraced in the Father’s love. As we come to the cross during our Good Friday service, may we be filled with the riches of grace, shown to us by the One who would go to any lengths to make us His own and give us real life for all eternity.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ HYMN ↓ *O Darkest Woe* *LSB 448*

**O darkest woe! Ye tears, forth flow!
Has earth so sad a wonder?
God the Father’s only Son now is buried yonder.**

**O sorrow dread! Our God is dead,
Upon the cross extended.
There His love enlivened us as His life was ended.**

**O child of woe: who struck the blow
That killed our gracious Master?
“It was I,” thy conscience cries, “I have wrought disaster!”**

**Thy Bridegroom dead! God’s Lamb has bled
Upon thy sin forever,
Pouring out His sinless self in this vast endeavor.**

**Such innocence! His countenance
A fount of faith undying!
Worlds on worlds cannot contain grief at Him here lying.**

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**O Virgin’s Son, what Thou has won
Is far beyond all telling:
How our God, detested, died, hell and devil felling.**

**O Jesus Christ, who sacrificed
Thy life for lifeless mortals:
Be my life in death and bring me to heaven’s portals!**

PSALM 22 ↑

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

People: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

Pastor: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

People: In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

Pastor: To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

People: But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

Pastor: All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

People: “He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

Pastor: Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.

People: On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

Pastor: Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

People: Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

Pastor: they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

People: 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;

Pastor: my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

People: For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—

Pastor: I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me;

People: they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Pastor: But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

People: Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!

Pastor: Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

People: I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

Pastor: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

People: For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

Pastor: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

People: The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!

Pastor: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

People: For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

Pastor: All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

People: Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

Pastor: they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER ↓

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM ↓ *Where Are the Shepherds Now? (Stevens)*

Where are the shepherds? Where are the wise men?

Where are the angels now? Can you tell me where?

As Christ is nailed on a cross of shame,

A crown of thorns pressed on His brow; where are the shepherds now?

Where are the broken? Where are the hungry?

Where are the multitudes? Can you tell me where?

As Christ is mocked by an angry crowd,

A crown of thorns pressed on His brow; where are the broken now?

Hanging on a cross of shame for all the world to see;

“Father, forgive them,” rings through eternity.

Where are the faithful? Where are the grateful?

Where are the twelve He chose? Can you tell me where?

As Christ is hanging between two thieves,

A crown of thorns pressed on His brow; where are the faithful now?

OLD TESTAMENT READING ↓ *Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (ESV)*

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you—

his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

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¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us?

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

²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But 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.

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

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make

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many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ HYMN ↓ *O Perfect Life of Love* (vs. 1-5) *LSB 452*

**O perfect life of love! All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above to do for us below.**

**No work is left undone of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one, the Scriptures have fulfilled.**

**No pain that we can share but He has felt its smart;
All forms of human grief and care have pierced that tender heart.**

**And on His thorn-crowned head and on His sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid that he might make us whole.**

**In perfect love He dies; for me He dies, for me.
O all atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.**

EPISTLE READING ↓ *Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 (ESV)*

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING ↑**John 19:17-30 (ESV)**

¹⁷[Jesus] went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ²²Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ HYMN ↓ *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted* LSB 451

**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.**

**Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.**

**Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.**

**Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost;
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast:
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded who on Him their hope have built.**

SERMON ↓ *Forsaken by God?***GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER ↑**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, as we now meditate on your tremendous sacrifice, give us the courage to not deny you as Peter did; give us the humility to not mock you as the soldiers did; rather strengthen our faith, that in the face of adversity, we will remember your suffering and death and boldly confess you as Savior of the world. As we behold you on the cross of death, may we see your anguish, your pain, and hold it deep within our hearts.

People: Amen.

The Tenebrae Sequence ↓

Jesus Suffers and Is Taken Away

Pastor: O Lord, deal not with us after our sins.

People: Do not reward us according to our iniquities.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, because You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we turn from our evil way and live, we implore You graciously to turn from us those punishments which we by our sins have deserved and to grant us grace always to serve You in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord.

People: Amen.

Reader: Mark 15:16-20

(The first candle is extinguished.)

♪ **HYMN** *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* **LSB 450**
**O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
 Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.
 O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss, till now was Thine!
 Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

The Cross is Laid on Simon

Pastor: Help us, O God of our salvation, to the glory of Your name.

People: Deliver us and purge away our sins for Your name's sake.

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, since You govern and sanctify the whole Christian Church by Your Holy Spirit, hear our prayers for all its members, and mercifully grant that by Your grace we may serve You in true faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Reader: Mark 15:21

(The second candle is extinguished.)

♪ **HYMN** *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* **LSB 450**
**How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
 How doth Thy face now languish that once was bright as morn!
 Grim death, with cruel rigor, hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
 Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

Jesus Hangs On the Cross

Pastor: Humbly we adore You, O Christ, and we proclaim Your saving love.

People: By Your holy cross and precious blood You have redeemed the world.

Pastor: O God, merciful Father, because You despise not the sighing of a contrite heart nor the desire of the sorrowful, mercifully assist our prayers which we make before You in all our troubles and adversities as they come upon us, and graciously hear us, so that those evils which the craft and subtlety of the devil or people work against us may by Your good guidance be brought to naught that we, Your servants, being hurt by no afflictions, may evermore give thanks to You in Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Reader: Mark 15:22-24

(The third candle is extinguished.)

♪ **HYMN** *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* **LSB 450**
**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;
 Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.
 Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
 Look on me with Thy favor, and grant to me Thy grace.**

Jesus is Mocked

Pastor: Call on Me in the day of trouble.

People: I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me.

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Pastor: Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins, and though by our continual transgressions we have merited Your punishments, be gracious to us and grant that all these evils which we have deserved may be turned from us and overruled 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.

People: Amen.

Reader: Mark 15:25-32

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

♪ HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* **LSB 450**
My Shepherd, now receive me; my Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me with words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me to heav'nly joys above.

Jesus Dies

Pastor: God forbid that I should glory:

People: Except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, who hates nothing which You have made and forgives the sins of all who are penitent, create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Reader: Mark 15:33-37

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

♪ HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* **LSB 450**
What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love for Thee.

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The Witnesses

Pastor: O Lord, enter not into judgment with Your servants.

People: For in Your sight shall no person living be justified.

Pastor: Almighty God, since You know that we are set in the midst of so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright, grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Reader: Mark 15:38-41

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

♪ HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* **LSB 450**
My Savior, by Thou near me when death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me, forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish by virtue of Thine own!

The Burial of Jesus

Pastor: You will not abandon me to the grave,

People: Nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.

Pastor: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity.

People: Amen.

Reader: Mark 15:42-47

♪ HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* LSB 450

**Be Thou my consolation, my shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.**

Pastor: Merciful and everlasting God, who has not spared
 Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all, that
 He might bear our sins upon the cross; grant that our
 hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that
 we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through
 the same, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM *Christ, We Do All Adore You (Dubois/Hopson)*

Christ, we do all adore You; Lord, we do praise You forever,
Christ, we do all adore You; Lord, we do praise You forever.
You on the holy cross have bought us, Savior and Redeemer.
Christ, we do all adore You; Lord, we do praise You forever.

*The seventh candle is removed from the altar
and taken from the chancel area.*

*The sound of a loud noise {the strepitus} is heard.
The candle is returned to the altar in the darkness.*

<i>The Pastors and congregation leave in silence.</i>
