

Enlarged Print Bulletin

The Three Days—Part 2

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

With the Good Friday liturgy we continue our celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Though we devoutly gather to recall our Lord's passion, we celebrate the wonder and mystery of the cross in the sure hope of the resurrection.

At the heart of tonight's liturgy is the passion reading according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day - the triumph of the cross - reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in him.

In the ancient Bidding Prayer we offer petitions for the whole world for which Christ died. Finally we honor the cross as the sign of the world's redemption; from it flows forgiveness, healing, and salvation. We acclaim the cross as the tree of life, for as Christ vanquishes death and evil the world is given new birth and a living hope.

We depart from the sanctuary in silence, ready to return for the Vigil of Easter and the culmina-

All gather in silence.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Reading: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him

—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so he shall startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which had not been told them they shall see,

and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?

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,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

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.

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

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
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 with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

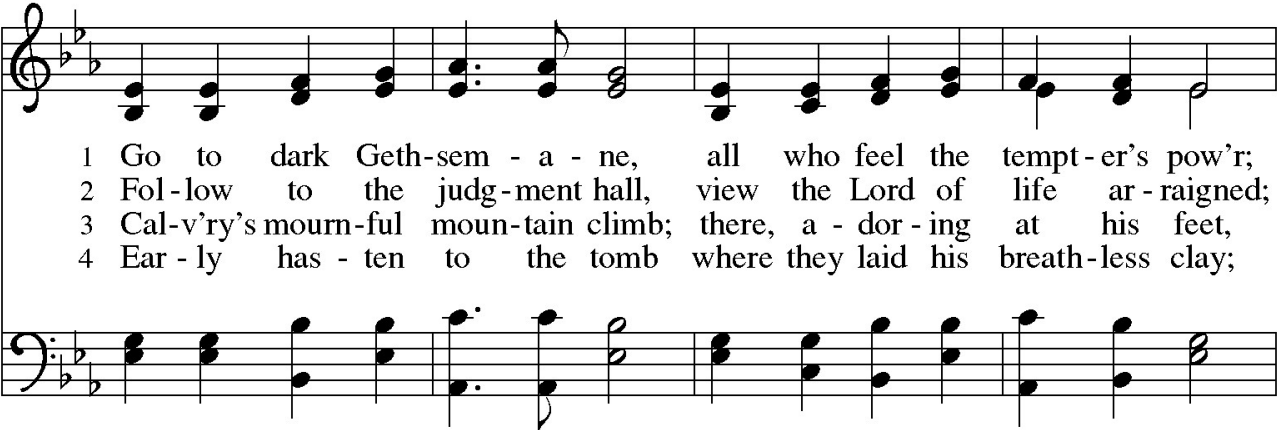
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

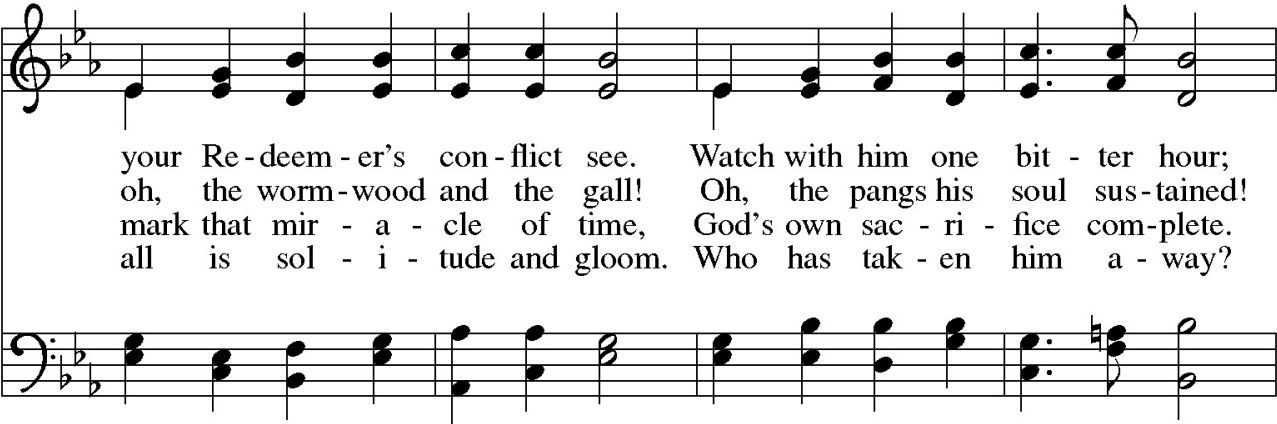
Thanks be to God.

The congregation is invited to stand

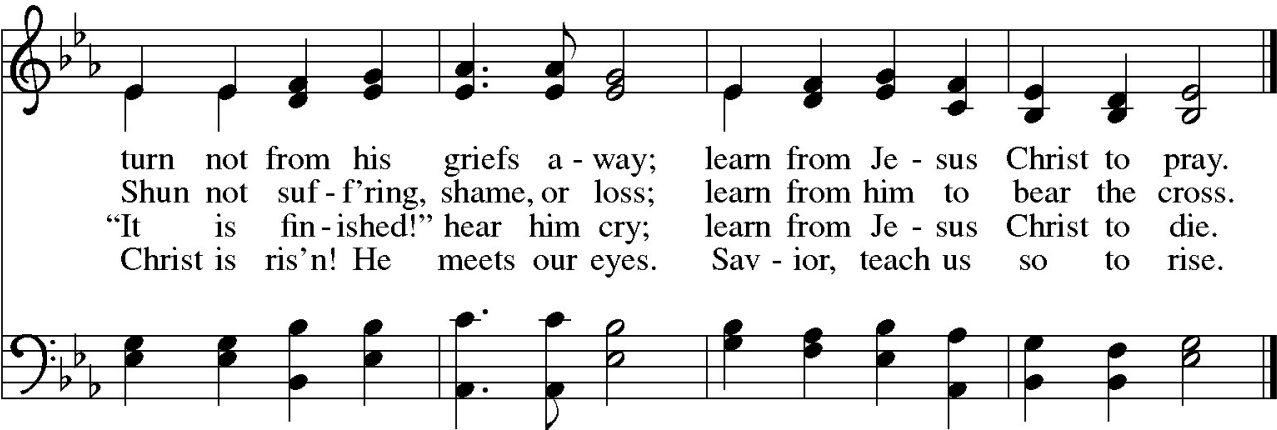
Hymn: "Go to Dark Gethsemane" verses 1-3



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.

The congregation is seated

Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

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

^{5:7}In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Passion: John 18:1—19:42

In the Garden, Betrayed by Judas

Hymn: “Ah, Holy Jesus” (verse 1)

Peter’s Denial in the Courtyard of the High Priest

Hymn: “Ah, Holy Jesus” (verse 2)

Jesus and Pilate

Hymn: “Ah, Holy Jesus” (verse 3)

“Crucify Him!”

Hymn: “Ah, Holy Jesus” (verse 4)

Golgotha

Hymn: “Ah, Holy Jesus” (verse 5)

The Tomb

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y

by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Hymn: "Were You There" verses 1,2,5

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

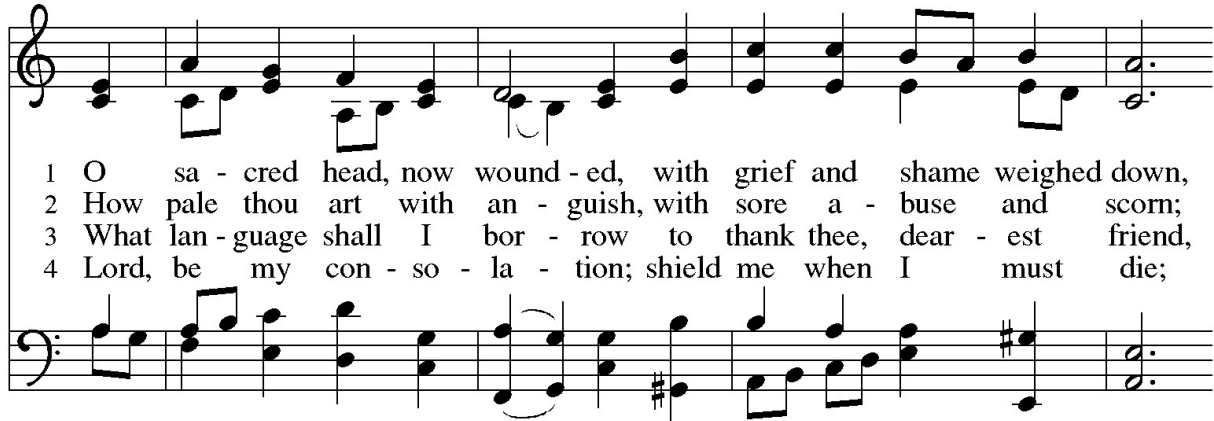
Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

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?

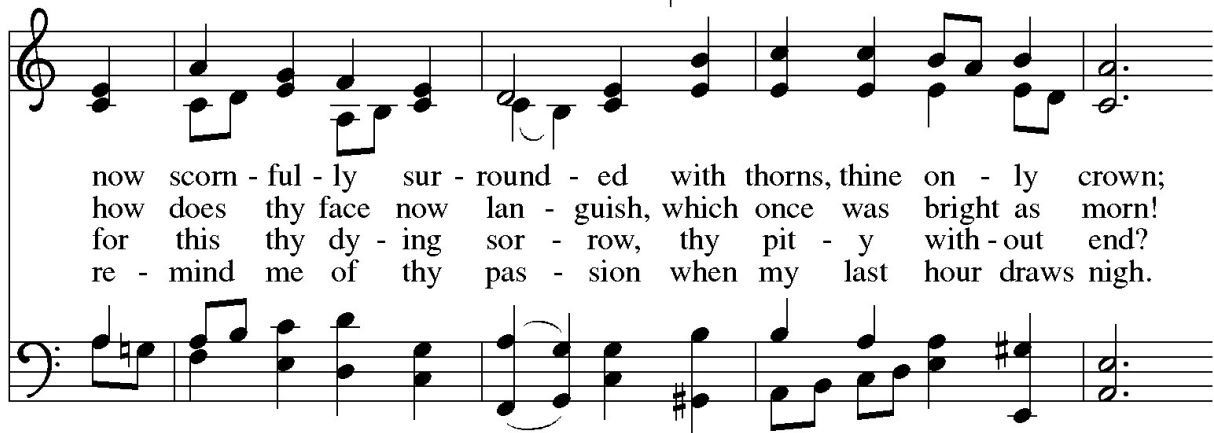
Reflection

The congregation is invited to stand

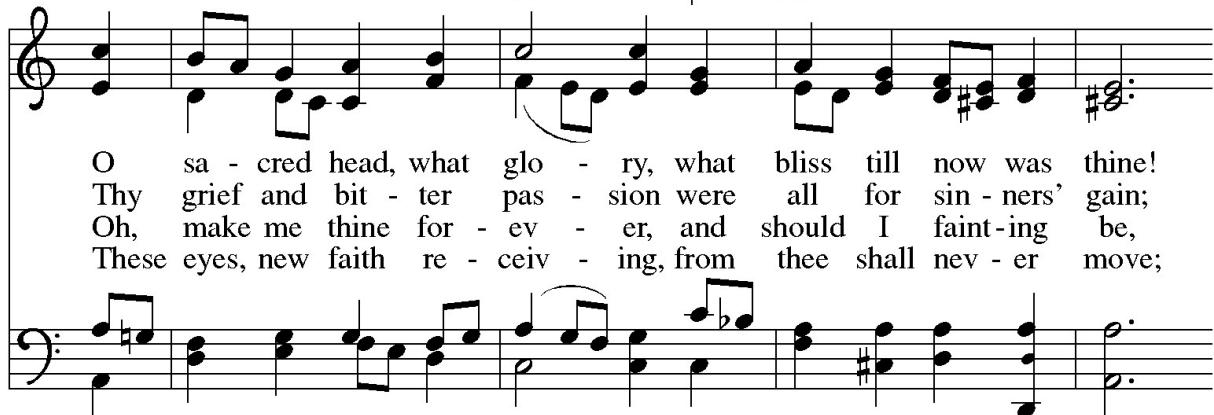
Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"



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.

Bidding Prayer:

Let us pray, siblings in Christ, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

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

Amen.

Let us pray for Yehiel and Nathan, our bishops, for Tom, our pastor, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

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 them to do faithfully the work to which you have called them. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

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

Amen.

Let us pray for our siblings in Christ in other churches who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

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

Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God and to receive God's law.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your law 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.

Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

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 perfect witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that others 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.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. 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. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

**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.**

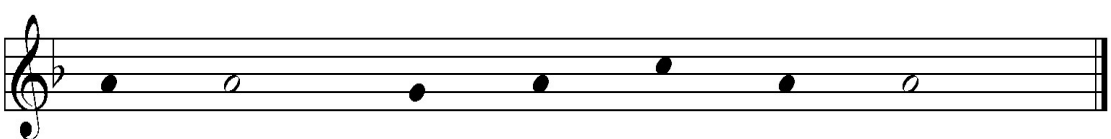
The congregation is seated

Procession of the Cross:

The following versicle is sung three times as the cross is brought up to the altar

Cantor: 

Behold, the life-giv - ing cross, on which was hung the Sav - ior of the world.

Congregation: 

Oh, come, let us wor - ship him.

Solemn Reproaches

O my people, O my church, What have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Answer me! I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Refrain A *p*

Refrain A



Ho-ly God, Ho-ly and might-y, Ho-ly im-mor-tal One, have mer-cy on us.

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna: I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Refrain A *p*

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine: but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Refrain A *mp*

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Refrain B *mf*

Refrain B



Ho-ly God, Ho-ly and might - y, Ho -ly im-mor - tal One, have mer - cy on us.

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Refrain B *p*

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for you Savior.

Refrain B *mp*

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Refrain A *p*

Refrain A



Ho-ly God, Ho-ly and might-y, Ho-ly im-mor-tal One, have mer-cy on us.

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder. I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants but you made the scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Refrain A *mf*

I cam to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Refrain A *pp sotto voce*

After a time of silence, the presiding minister continues:

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All stand and sing, proclaiming the triumph of the cross.

Sing my tongue the glorious battle;

tell the triumph far and wide;

tell aloud the wondrous story

of the cross, the Crucified;

tell how Christ, the world's redeemer,

vanquished death the day he died.

Faithful cross, true sign of triumph

be for all the noblest tree;

symbol of the world's redemption,

for your burden makes us free.

Hymn: "There in God's Garden"

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!"

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing.”

5 This is my ending,
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 “Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!”
 Amen! My Master!

Go in peace or remain to pray

Tonight's Worship Leaders

Pastor

Tom Maehl

Vicar

Trevor Boe

Musician

Cynthia Niiler

Assistant Minister

Emily Codner

Lector

Catherine Sukow

Solemn Reproaches

Cynthia Niiler

Sandy Hebert

A/V

Hazel Maehl

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“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Music: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

Music: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

“Were You There”

Text and Music: African American spiritual

Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain d. 1250; tr. Composite

Music: German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

“Solemn Reproaches of the Cross”

Text: from Book of Common Worship, © 1993 Westminster John Knox Press

Music: Robert Buckley Farlee ISBN 0-8006-7472-3; Copyright © 2001 Augsburg Fortress,

“There in God's Garden”

Text: Kiraly Imre von Pecselyi, c. 1590-c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982. © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950. © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publisher, Inc.



First Lutheran's RIC Welcome Statement:

Walking together in God's love, we rejoice in the diversity of God's wonderfully made children. We celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and non-binary people and all members of our human

family regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, physical and mental ability, faith history, economic status, education, family configuration, or immigration status. We renounce the sin of racism and all forms of discrimination. We welcome all to join us in worship, leadership, participation in rites and sacraments of the church, and fellowship on our journey of nurturing faith, doing justice, and serving all.