

INTO YOUR HAND  
I COMMIT MY SPIRIT;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

PSALM 31:5



# GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 14, 2017

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## **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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**Pastor Ben Squires**

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***Good Friday worship begins without the usual greeting. Pastor and the acolyte enter in silence, the opening words are read, followed by silent prayer before the hymn.***

***Please complete attendance cards found in the pew and pass them to the center aisle. Leave them there in the pew for the ushers to pick up at the end of the service.***

***Please note that the service ends in darkness and silence. You may remain in the sanctuary for silent reflection and prayer, exiting at your own pace. The congregation leaves in silence, meditating on the sacrifice of Christ. You may gather in the Fellowship Hall for conversation. Pastor Squires will come there after all have exited if you were hoping to speak with him today.***

## ***WORSHIP SCHEDULE***

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. and Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,

Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

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## ***WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS***

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

## ***NURSERY***

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

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## ***SERVING TODAY***

1:00 p.m.

**Elder:** Mike Bandman  
**Comm/Asst. Elder:** Jack Warneke  
**Acolytes:** Sam Squires  
**Ushers:** Kevin Kruse, Lance Rasmussen  
**Lay Readers:** Jack Warneke, Carol Cook, Pat Rasmussen,  
Claudine Rayos, Jose Rayos  
**April Altar Guild:** Shari Hoppe  
**April Counters:** Margie Tatgenhorst

6:30 p.m.

Mike Bandman  
Tim Faitsch  
Lily Erwin, Nathan Faitsch  
Tom Pipia, Don Heidlauf  
Tony Young, Jake Stoltzman, Andy Barkley,  
Sara Pipia, Joanne Heidlauf  
Becky Anderson  
Carol Cook

### **Acknowledgments**

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### **Opening Words**

P: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer;  
God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

C: Amen.

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Opening Hymn**

### **Jesus, I Will Ponder Now**

LSB 440 sts. 1, 5



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.

5 If my sins give me alarm  
And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm;  
Peace of conscience give me.

Help me see forgiveness won  
By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son,  
God must have compassion!

### **Sentence and Response**

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

C: **O come, let us worship Him.**

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C: **O come, let us worship Him.**

## ***Confession and Absolution***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

**C: *The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.***

P: Amen. I thank my heavenly Father for this Good News.

**C: *I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.***

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.      **C: *Amen. I thank my heavenly Father for this Good News.***

## ***Gospel Reading – The Arrest***

***John 18:1-14 (ESV)***

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” <sup>5</sup>They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” <sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup>So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

<sup>12</sup>So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

**Psalm Reading**

**Psalm 31:11-15 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup>Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors,  
and an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.

<sup>12</sup>I have been forgotten like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.

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

<sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

**Prayer**

P: 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.**

**Hymn Verse**

**Jesus, I Will Ponder Now**

LSB 440 sts. 2-3



2 Make me see Your great dis-tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,  
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,



Bonds and stripes and wretch-ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;  
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.



Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,  
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;



How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.  
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.

**Meditation** (Pastor will offer brief meditations after each section of readings)

## ***Gospel Reading – Peter’s Denial***

***John 18:15-27 (ESV)***

<sup>15</sup>Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” <sup>18</sup>Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup>The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?” <sup>24</sup>Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup>Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” <sup>26</sup>One of the servants 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>Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

## ***Psalm Reading***

***Psalm 31:19-20,23-24 (ESV)***

<sup>19</sup>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!

<sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>23</sup>Love the LORD, all you his saints!  
The LORD preserves the faithful  
but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

<sup>24</sup>Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

**Prayer** P: Let us pray. Loving God, please continue to have mercy on your human family, for whom Christ Jesus accepted the humility of betrayal, trial, abuse and crucifixion. May we who love him a little, and would hope to love him more, confess our undying faith in him, and before his holy cross renew our promises to him. Then by his grace, and in the power of your holy Spirit, may we worship and serve you, the One true God and unfailing Friend, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**Readings Hymn Verse from "Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

LSB 436 st. 3

3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

**Meditation**

**Gospel Reading – Before Pilate**

**John 18:28-19:16 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup>Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup>This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup>So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” <sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?”

<sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” <sup>37</sup>Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup>Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” <sup>40</sup>They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

<sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

<sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” <sup>13</sup>So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” <sup>15</sup>They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” <sup>16</sup>So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

## ***Psalm Reading***

***Psalm 31:16-18 (ESV)***

<sup>16</sup>Make your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love!

<sup>17</sup>O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon you;  
let the wicked be put to shame;  
let them go silently to Sheol.

<sup>18</sup>Let the lying lips be mute,  
which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and contempt.

## ***Prayer***

In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

By tangled thorns he  
drained himself,  
pouring his  
grace on  
all of  
us.

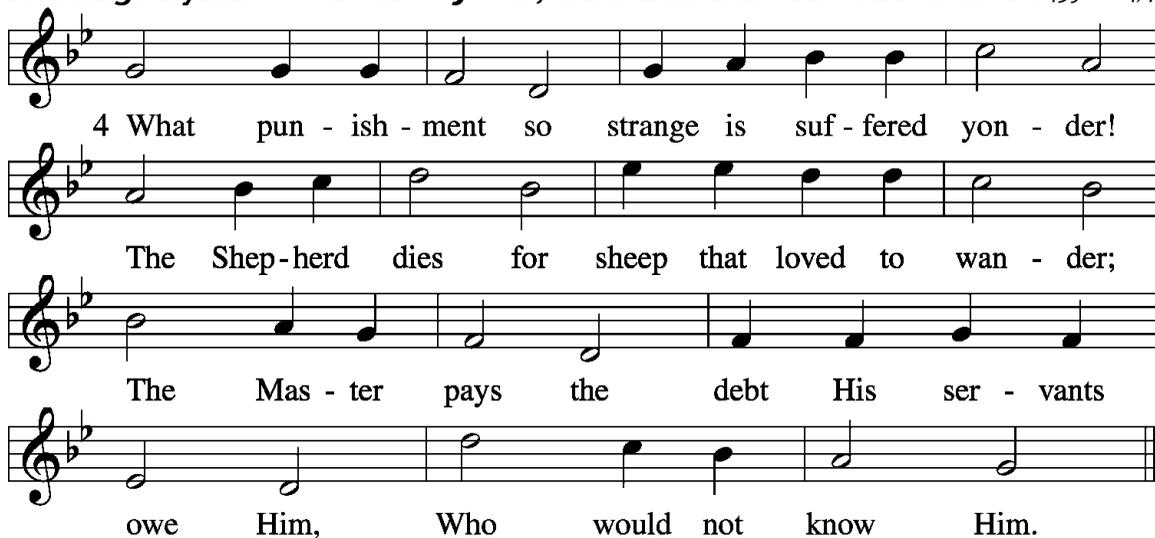
Led to  
the slaughter,  
bearing our torment,  
wearing our guilt,  
and crushed  
for our  
sins.

Behold  
the  
Son  
of God.

**C: Amen.**

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**Readings Hymn**    **O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken**    LSB 439 sts. 4, 7



4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!  
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;  
The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants  
owe Him, Who would not know Him.

7 O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,  
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!  
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying  
While Thou wert dying.

*Stanza 7 on next page*

**Meditation**

**Gospel Reading – The Crucifixion**

**John 19:16b-30 (ESV)**

So they took Jesus,<sup>17</sup>and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.<sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.<sup>19</sup>Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”<sup>20</sup>Many 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.<sup>21</sup>So 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.’”<sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

<sup>23</sup>When 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,<sup>24</sup>so 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, <sup>25</sup>but standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup>A 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. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### ***Psalm Reading***

### ***Psalm 31:9-10, 1-5 (ESV)***

<sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.

<sup>10</sup>For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;

my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me!

<sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

<sup>3</sup>For you are my rock and my fortress;

and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

<sup>4</sup>you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

<sup>5</sup>Into your hand I commit my spirit;

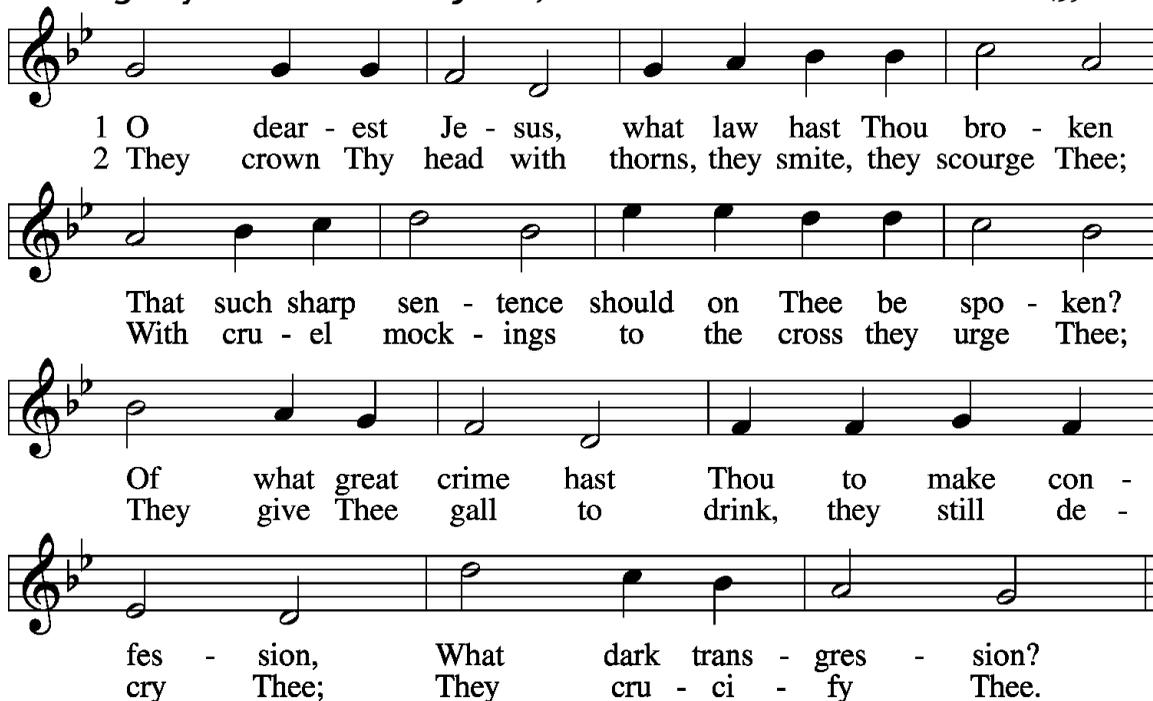
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

### ***Prayer***

P: Let us pray. Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Readings Hymn**    **O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken**    LSB 439 sts. 1-2



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;

That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;

Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -

fes - sion,  
cry Thee;      What      dark trans - gres - sion?  
They      cru - ci - fy      Thee.

**Meditation**

**Gospel Reading – His Death and Burial**

**John 19:31-42 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup>So 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>But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup>He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” <sup>37</sup>And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

<sup>38</sup>After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. <sup>40</sup>So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup>So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

### ***Psalm Reading***

***Psalm 31:6-8,21-22 (ESV)***

<sup>6</sup>I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,  
but I trust in the LORD.

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

<sup>8</sup>and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;  
you have set my feet in a broad place.

<sup>21</sup>Blesséd be the LORD,  
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me  
when I was in a besieged city.

<sup>22</sup>I 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.

### ***Prayer***

P: Let us pray. O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

**Anthem (6:30PM)****“He Suffered and Died”****Adult Choir**

The soldiers found Him in dark Gethsemane  
 Before a mob He was tried  
 They took our Jesus and nailed Him to a tree.  
 He suffered and died, He suffered and died.

A crown of thorn they would place upon His head  
 And then our Lord was crucified.  
 Upon the cross Jesus hung until he bled.  
 He suffered and died, He suffered and died.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
 He raised his head and he cried.  
 And with those words, Jesus made his final plea.  
 He suffered and died, He suffered and died.  
 He suffered and died.

**Meditation****Hymn****O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

LSB 450 sts. 1–3, 5



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 Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;  
 5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
 How doth Thy face now lan - guish That once was bright as morn!  
 Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.  
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
 Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;  
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
 Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.  
 Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.

## **Prayers**

- P: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere and the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**
- P: Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase our faith and understanding so that, rejoicing in our new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, we may forever continue in Your family, adopted as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**
- P: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**
- P: Father, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have do not know You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**
- P: Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, we ask that You would grant us Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**
- P: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly beg You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**
- P: O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**
- P: Finally, we pray for all things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:  
**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 candles are extinguished and the lights dimmed as a reminder that Christ, the Light of the world, gave up His life for us. The cross (1 pm) and the Christ candle (6:30 pm) exit to the Narthex to remind us that Christ goes ahead of us into death. They remain in the Narthex until Easter Sunrise.**

***Responsory***

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

C: ***Into Your hands I commend my spirit.***

P: You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C: ***Into Your hands I commend my spirit.***

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: ***Into Your hands I commend my spirit.***

***The slamming sound reminds us that when Christ died, “the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks were split” (Matt. 27:51).***

***1:00 PM Service is concluded. You may remain in the sanctuary for silent reflection and prayer, exiting at your own pace. The congregation leaves in silence, meditating on the sacrifice of Christ. You may gather in the Fellowship Hall for conversation.***

**6:30 PM service continues...**

***Song of Simeon***

P: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping

that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping

that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

***You may remain in the sanctuary for silent reflection and prayer, exiting at your own pace. The congregation leaves in silence, meditating on the sacrifice of Christ. You may gather in the Fellowship Hall for conversation.***