

Good Friday

Tenebrae

Friday, April 3, 2026

6:00 pm



St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

PRELUDE

WELCOME

stand as able

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our call to worship uses phrases from Christmas carols, reminding us that the One born in the manger in Bethlehem came to die for us and free us from our sin.

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

O, come, let us adore him.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be born for me, for you. (Greensleeves)

O, come, let us adore him.

He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found. (Joy to the World)

O, come, let us adore him.

Now ye hear of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this. ((Good Christian Friends, Rejoice)

O, come, let us adore him.

Mild he lays his glory by
Born that we no more may die. (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

O, come, let us adore him.

We adore you, O Christ;

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

Let us pray together. Lord Jesus,

**You carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life.
May we and all who remember this day find new life in you, now and in the
world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen**

be seated

TENEBRAE MEDITATION

“Tenebrae” is Latin for “darkness” or “shadows.” The service is marked by the gradual extinguishing of light. Each scripture reading is accompanied by a dramatic reading called “A Bystander by the Cross.”

The congregation remains seated throughout the Tenebrae meditation.

THE FIRST WORD - Luke 23:33-34a

And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

A Bystander by the cross reflects

Oh, How He Loves You and Me

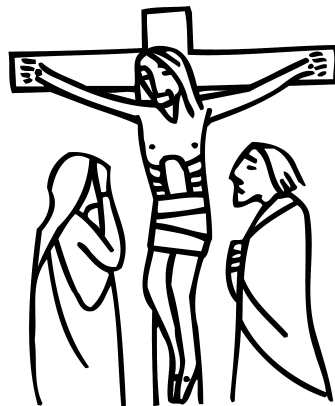
Kurt Kaiser

1. Oh, how he loves you and me, oh, how he loves you and me.
2. Je - sus to Cal - v'ry did go, his love for sin - ners to
me. He gave his life, what more could he give? Oh, how he
show. What he did there brought hope from dis - pair. Oh, how he
loves you; oh, how he loves me; oh, how he loves you and me.
loves you; oh, how he loves me; oh, how he loves you and me.

second time

Oh, how he loves you; oh, how he loves me; oh, how he loves you and me.

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THE SECOND WORD - Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

A Bystander by the cross reflects

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

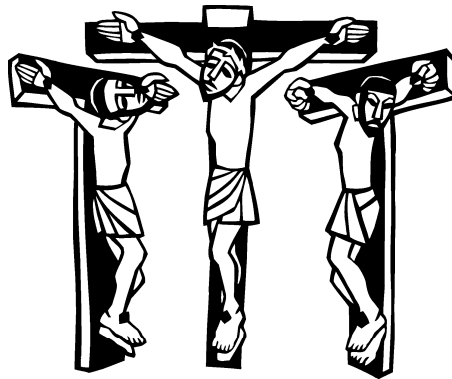


1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
5 But tears of grief can - not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



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

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824



THE THIRD WORD - John 19:25-27

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

A Bystander by the cross reflects

Were You There

African American Spiritual (ELW 353)



THE FOURTH WORD - Matthew 27:45-46

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, La'ma sabach-tha'ni?" that is, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

A Bystander by the cross reflects

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that man 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 hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for man's a - tone - ment,
sorrow, 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 he noth - ing heed - eth, God in - ter - ced - eth.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662



THE FIFTH WORD - John 19:28

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst."

A Bystander by the cross reflects.

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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

THE SIXTH WORD - John 19:29-30a

A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished”; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

A Bystander by the cross reflects

Silence

THE SEVENTH WORD - Luke 23:45

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

A Bystander by the cross reflects

Silence

The Christ candle is removed. The congregation stands for the Apostles' Creed. At the words "On the third day he rose from the dead" the candle returns.

We confess our faith together:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

The congregation leaves in silence.

