

Good Friday

April 18th, 2025

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

By Hans Leo Hassler, arr. by Bill Wolaver. Arr. copyright: 2002 Word Music, Inc. CCLI# 3981977

Via Dolorosa

By Niles Borop and Billy Sprague. Arr. by Kurt Kaiser. Copyright: 1983 BMG Songs, Meadowgreen Music Co.

OPENING DIALOGUE

P: All you who pass this way

C: Look and see the shadow of sin

P: All you who pass this way

C: Look and see the weight of the world

P: All you who pass this way

C: Look and see the suffering of our Savior

P: All you who pass this way

C: Look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your children, 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, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

To Mock Your Reign

Words by Fred Pratt Green, music: English melody. arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Words copyright: 1973 Hope Publishing Co.

1.
*To mock Your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns;
set You with taunts along that road from which no one returns.
They could not know, as we do now, how glorious is that crown;
that thorns would flower upon Your brow, Your sorrows heal our own.*

2.

*In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak;
Your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke.
They could not know, as we do now, that though we merit blame,
You will Your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.*

3.

*A sceptered reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into Your hand,
and acted out their grim charade to its appointed end.
They could not know, as we do now, though empires rise and fall,
Your kingdom shall not cease to grow till love embraces all!*

THE READING OF THE PASSION

First Reading (Luke 22:31-44)

³¹‘Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, ³²but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.’ ³³And he said to him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!’ ³⁴Jesus said, ‘I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.’

³⁵He said to them, ‘When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?’ They said, ‘No, not a thing.’ ³⁶He said to them, ‘But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, “And he was counted among the lawless”; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.’ ³⁸They said, ‘Lord, look, here are two swords.’ He replied, ‘It is enough.’

³⁹He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’ ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.’ ⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

[moment of silence, during which the first candle is extinguished]

Reader: Forgiving Christ, when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come alongside us in the darkness, and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.

*Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power ;
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with Him one bitter hour;
turn not from His griefs away; learn from Jesus how to pray.*

Second Reading (Luke 22:45-62)

⁴⁵When Jesus got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶and he said to them, ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?’ ⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, ‘Lord, should we strike with the sword?’ ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, ‘No more of this!’ And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, ‘Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit?’ ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!’

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, ‘This man also was with him.’ ⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, ‘Woman, I do not know him.’ ⁵⁸A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, ‘You also are one of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not!’ ⁵⁹Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, ‘Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.’ ⁶⁰But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about!’ At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.’ ⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly.

[moment of silence, during which the second candle is extinguished]

Reader: Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, a people who are not whole. You reached out to the thief and you welcomed him to God’s side. Come alongside us in the darkness, and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken.

*Follow to the judgement hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from Him to bear the cross.*

Third Reading (Luke 22:63-23:5)

⁶³ Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; ⁶⁴ they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, 'Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?' ⁶⁵ They kept heaping many other insults on him.

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. ⁶⁷ They said, 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.' He replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; ⁶⁸ and if I question you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' ⁷⁰ All of them asked, 'Are you, then, the Son of God?' He said to them, 'You say that I am.' ⁷¹ Then they said, 'What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!'

^{23:1} Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ² They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' ³ Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' ⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' ⁵ But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

[moment of silence, during which the third candle is extinguished]

Reader: Loving Jesus, we carry the weight of the people we love, concern for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness, and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.

ELW 349 v. 1 *"Ah, Holy Jesus"*

By Johann Heermann and Johann Cruger. Copyright: Public Domain

*Ah, holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended
that we to judge Thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.*

Fourth Reading (Luke 23:6-16)

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him.

¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death.

¹⁶I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

[moment of silence, during which the fourth candle is extinguished]

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God's presence. Come alongside us in the darkness, and help us call out for God.

ELW 349 v. 2 *"Ah, Holy Jesus"*

By Johann Heermann and Johann Cruger. Copyright: Public Domain

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied Thee;
I crucified Thee.*

Fifth Reading (Luke 23:18-31)

¹⁸ Then they all shouted out together, ‘Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!’ ¹⁹(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹but they kept shouting, ‘Crucify, crucify him!’ ²²A third time he said to them, ‘Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.’ ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, “Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.” ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us”; and to the hills, “Cover us.” ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?’

[moment of silence, during which the fifth candle is extinguished]

Reader: Suffering Savior, in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness, and walk with us through all our suffering.

ELW 351 v.1 *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

By words by Paul Gerhardt, melody: German melody adpt. Hans Hassler. Arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach.

*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.*

Sixth Reading (Luke 23:32-42)

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is

the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine,³⁷and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’³⁸There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?’⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’⁴²Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’⁴³He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

[moment of silence, during which the sixth candle is extinguished]

Reader: Dearest Jesus, even in death, you are there. When we mourn, we are afraid, when we come to our own end, you have been there too. Come alongside us in the darkness, and carry us through death to life.

ELW 351 v.2 *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

By words by Paul Gerhardt, melody: German melody adpt. Hans Hassler. Arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach.

*How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
how does Thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinner's gain;
mine, mine was the transgressions, but Thine the deadly pain.*

Seventh Reading (Luke 23:44-56)

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,⁴⁵while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.’ Having said this, he breathed his last.⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, ‘Certainly this man was innocent.’⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁰Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council,⁵¹had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God.⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.⁵³Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was

beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

[moment of silence, during which the final candle is extinguished]

SERMON Vicar Melissa Bedell

SERMON HYMN When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

By Isaac Watts and Lowell Mason. Arr. by Don Chapman. Arr. copyright: 2002 Hearts to God Music, Inc. CCLI# 5205644

1.

*When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

2.

*Forbid it Lord that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

3.

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

4.

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

BIDDING PRAYERS

P: Let us pray for the holy church throughout the world.

C: 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 throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.

P: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for our neighbors of different faiths or who do not have a spiritual community to which they belong.

C: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in us.

P: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for God's creation.

C: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold every atom in the arms of your care, and bring all things to fulfillment in you.

P: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

C: 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 and freedom, and share in the goodness of your creation.

P: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those in need.

C: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger and disease. 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.

P: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

(Silence)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Here is Love, Vast as the Ocean”* Soloist: Beth Colbert

By William Reyes, and Robert Lowry. Arr. by John Hartely, A. DePasquale, Jared DePasquale.

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ADORATION OF THE CROSS

The pastor moves to stand in front of the cross at the front of the sanctuary.

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

C: O, come, let us worship him.

P: We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.

C: May God be merciful and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us. Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

P: We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.

C: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the people praise you. May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

P: We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.

C: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your Holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Here is Love, Vast as the Ocean" (final verse)* Soloist: Beth Colbert
By William Reyes, and Robert Lowry. Arr. by John Hartely, A. DePasquale, Jared DePasquale.
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RECESSION and STREPITUS from rear

Offerings will be received upon exiting the Sanctuary.