

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
2003 N.E. Englewood Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64118
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“It is finished”



Tenebrae Vespers
Good Friday
April 3, 2026

Rev. Dr. Craig A. Meissner, Pastor
Website: <http://holycrosskc.org>
Email: church@holycrosskc.org

The congregation and pastor enter in silence.

Stand

Opening Versicles (*Spoken*)

P O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm

Psalm 51 (Spoken)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin!**

³For I know my transgressions,*
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in
your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in
your judgment.**

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,*
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;*
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,***

and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,*
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my
salvation,***

and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,*
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶**For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;*
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸**Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;*
build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole
burnt offerings;*
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

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—

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 every one 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 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.

A candle is extinguished.

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
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,
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
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.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
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 could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
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.
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

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!

6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
Text and tune: Public domain

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. John

John 18:1-11

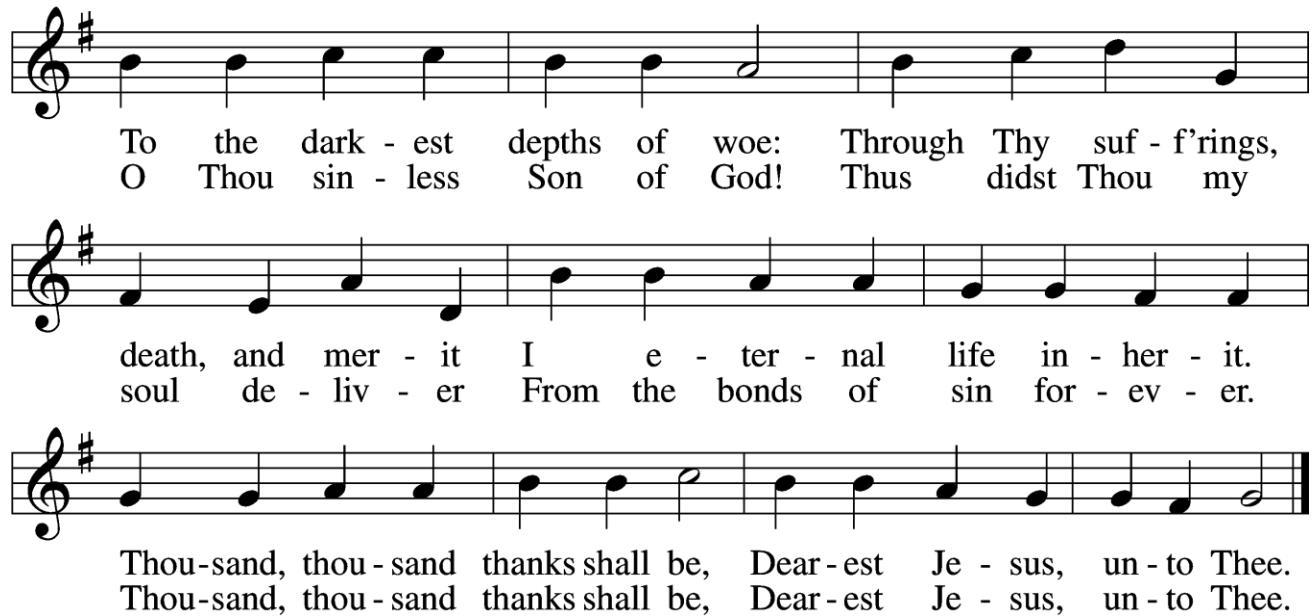
¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and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

A candle is extinguished.

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living *sts. 1-2*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff contains the melody for the next two lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f' rings,
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

John 18:12-27

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

¹⁵Simon 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, ¹⁶but 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. ¹⁷The 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.” ¹⁸Now 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.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus 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. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When 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?” ²³Jesus 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?” ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now 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.” ²⁶One 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?” ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living sts. 3–5



3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with
 5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I



all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
 shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.
 might be free; False - ly did Thy foes ac - cuse Thee:



Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
 All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou
 Thence I gain se - cu - ri - ty; Com - fort - less Thy



God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.
 soul did lan - guish Me to com - fort in my an - guish.



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 3–4): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis; (st. 5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain

John 18:28-40

John 18:28–40

²⁸Then 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. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” ³¹Pilate 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.” ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus 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.” ³⁷Then 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.” ³⁸Pilate 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. ³⁹But 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?" ⁴⁰They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

A candle is extinguished.

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

sts. 1-4



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
 It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
 Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -
 The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
 cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
 her - it, This I do mer - it.
 owe Him, Who would not know Him.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and tune: Public domain

John 19:1-16a

John 19:1-16a

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a

purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate 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.” ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” ⁶When 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.” ⁷The 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.” ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So 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?” ¹¹Jesus 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.”

¹²From 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.” ¹³So 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. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵They 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.” ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

A candle is extinguished.

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken sts. 5–7



5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;
 6 There was no spot in me by sin un - taint - ed;
 7 O won - drous love, whose depth no heart hath sound - ed,



The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;
Sick with sin's poi - son, all my heart had faint - ed;
That broughtThee here, by foes and thieves sur - round - ed!



Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -
My heav - y guilt to hell had well - nigh
All world - ly plea - sures, heed - less, I was



quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.
brought me, Such woe it wrought me.
try - ing While Thou wert dy - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

John 19:16b-24

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he 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,

A candle is extinguished.

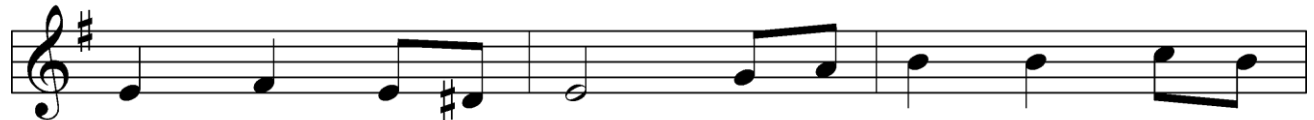
451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted *sts. 1–2*



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, 1850, Paderborn

Text and tune: Public domain

John 19:25-30

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.

Sit

451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted *sts. 3-4*

3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

John 19:31-42

³¹Since 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. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

³⁸After 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. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now 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. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

A candle is extinguished.

5 Your soul in griefs unbounded,
Your head with thorns surrounded,
 You died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring,
The crown for me securing,
 You healed my wounds and set me free.

6 Your cords of love, my Savior,
Bind me to You forever,
 I am no longer mine.
To You I gladly tender
All that my life can render
 And all I have to You resign.

7 Your cross I place before me;
Its saving pow'r restore me,
 Sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending,
Be guiding and attending
 My way to Your eternal rest.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.
Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nunc Dimittis (*Spoken*)

☐ 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 every people:

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

434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
 2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
 3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

Text and tune: Public domain

The Bidding Prayer

A Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

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, we ask You, 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 in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God:

P Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:

P Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

P O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially Joe, our President; the Congress of the United States; Mike, our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in

bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:

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.

A Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

P Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of 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.

A Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:

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, grant us, we implore You, 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.

A Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:

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 implore 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.**

A Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

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, let us pray for all those 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.

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

P 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.

C Amen.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Candle is removed

The congregation leaves in silence and minimal light.

-Offering taken at the door-

Acknowledgments

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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