

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29, 2024

3:00 pm

(The congregation enters in silence.)

Use these words to meditate upon as you prepare for worship:

We must note in the first place that Christ by His suffering not only saved us from the devil, death, and sin, but also that His suffering is an example, which we are to follow in our suffering...For God has appointed that we should not only believe in the crucified cross, but also be crucified with Him...what is needed is to hold fast and submit oneself to it, as I have said, namely, that one know that we must suffer, in order that we may thus be conformed to Christ, and that it cannot be otherwise, that everyone must have his (her) cross and suffering. When one knows this it is the more easy and bearable, and one can comfort oneself by saying: Very well, if I want to be a Christian, I must also wear the colors of the court; the dear Christ issues no others in His court; suffering must be there...none should dictate or choose his own cross and suffering, but rather when it comes, patiently bear and suffer it.

—Martin Luther, Sermon at Coberg 1530

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray

C: Almighty God, look with mercy on Your family of faith gathered here and across the world, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given over into the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; and Who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept for reflection and meditation.

The Psalmody of the Day (read responsively)

Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

²**O my God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not answer; by night as well, but I find no rest.**

³Yet You are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

⁴**Our forefathers put their trust in You; they trusted, and You delivered them.**

⁵They cried out to You and were delivered; they trusted in You and were not put to shame.

⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and no man, scorned by all and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

⁸**“He trusted in the Lord; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, if he delights in Him.”**

⁹Yet You are He who took me out of the womb, and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.

¹⁰**I have been entrusted to You ever since I was born; You were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹²**Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

¹³They open wide their jaws at me, like a ravening and a roaring lion.

¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;***

my heart within my breast is melting wax.

¹⁵My mouth is dried out like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and You have laid me in the dust of the grave.

¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; they pierce my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones.**

¹⁷They stare and gloat over me;*

they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

¹⁸**Be not far away, O Lord; You are my strength; hasten to help me.**

¹⁹Save me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

²⁰**Save me from the lion’s mouth, my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.**

²¹I will declare Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.

(continue on next page)

²²Praise the Lord, you that fear Him; stand in awe of Him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

²³For He does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does He hide His face from them;* but when they cry to Him He hears them.

²⁴My praise is of Him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship Him.

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise Him:

“May your heart live forever!”

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before Him.

²⁷For kingship belongs to the Lord; He rules over the nations.

²⁸To Him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before Him.

²⁹My soul shall live for Him; my descendants shall serve Him; they shall be known as the Lord's forever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that He has done.

Second Lesson:

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept for reflection and meditation.

*Hymn *Ah, Holy Jesus* (ELW) No. 349

***Gospel: John 18:1-19:42**

P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Silence is kept for reflection and meditation.

Sermon

Rev. Robert Grewe

The Bidding Prayer (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

P: Let us pray.....

C: (Silent prayer)

P: Almighty and eternal God.....We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

(Bidding Prayers are prayed 9 times)

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

*** Lord's Prayer**

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.

***Adoration of the Cross**

The Cross is carried in procession, chant is sung by pastor, response by congregation and the cross is placed before the altar.

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

C: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

As the procession is halfway to the altar:

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

C: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

As the procession ends at the altar:

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

C: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

The cross is offered to nail your sin upon.

Silence is kept for reflection and meditation.

***Solemn Reproaches**

P: O My people, O My church....but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: Forty years I led you through the desert....but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire....but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I planted you as my fairest vine....but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O My people, O My church....but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Period of Silence is kept.

P: O My people, O My church....but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I struck down your enemies....and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land....but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O My people, O My church....but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I grafted you into My people Israel, but you made them scape goats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters....and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Sit for Hymn of Meditation O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (ELW) No. 351

Prayer and Response

P: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C: By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

***Closing Hymn** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (ELW) No. 803

You may stay as long as you like in silence and meditation, and to offer your prayer on the cross of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

Leave in silence when you wish.

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist

Welcome to our Visitors!

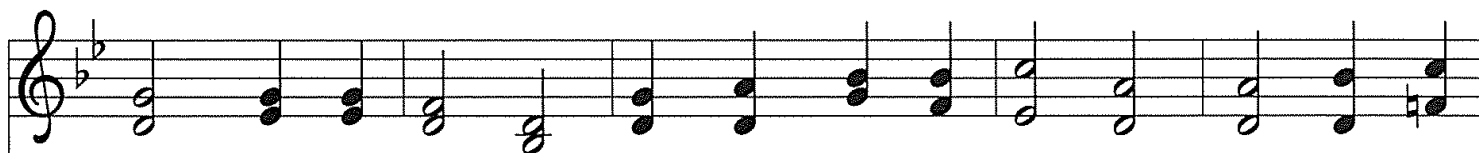
The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have any questions or are interested in hearing about membership, please see the pastor or contact the Church Office.

The Lay Reader is: Dennis Schmidt.

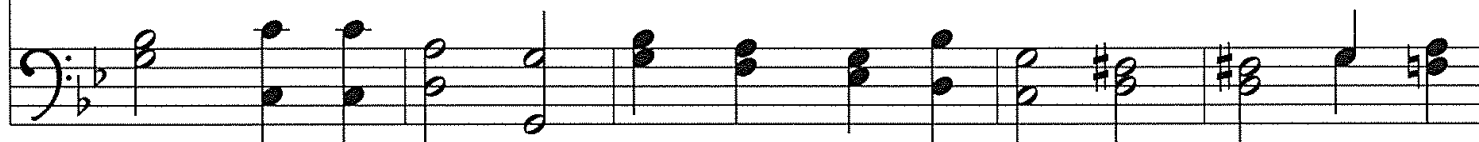
Acolytes are: Heidi Walsh, Denico Walsh and Parker Lambert.

Please join us:

Sunday, March 31, 2024, The Resurrection of Our Lord, we worship at 10:00 am with the Holy Communion Service.



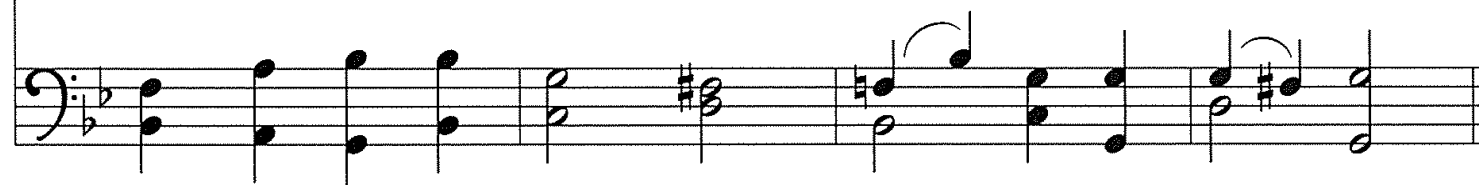
1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je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



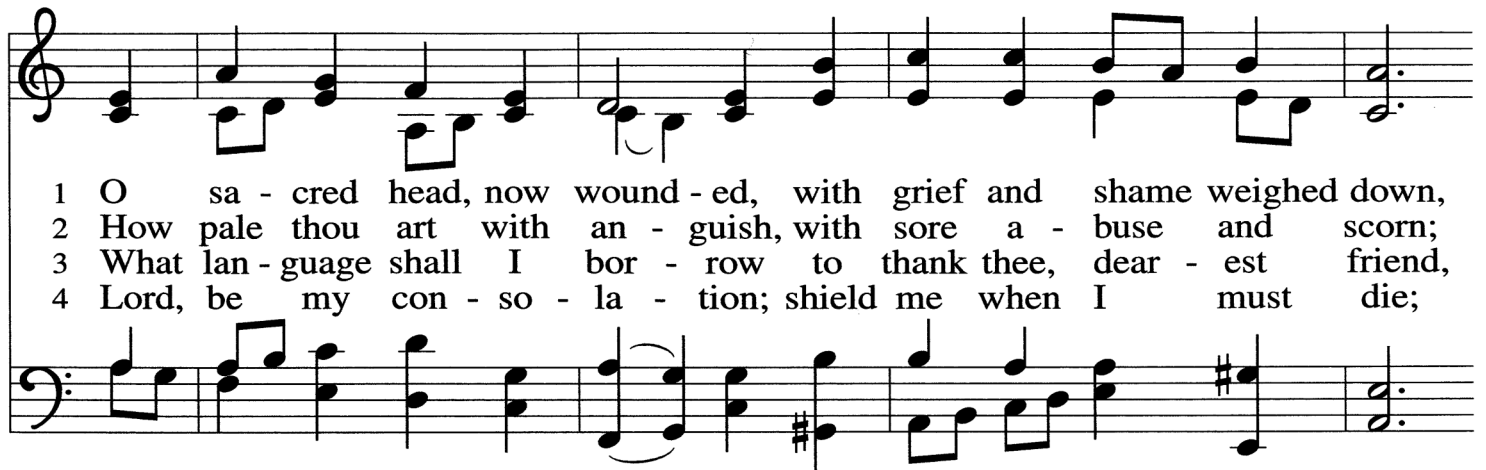
judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee;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



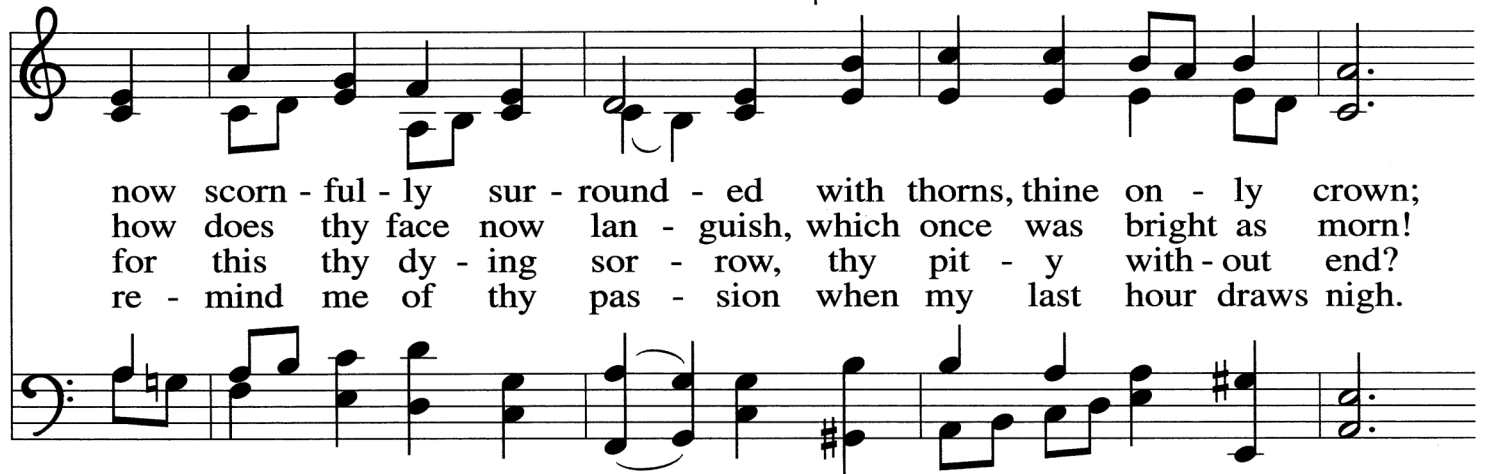
by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.



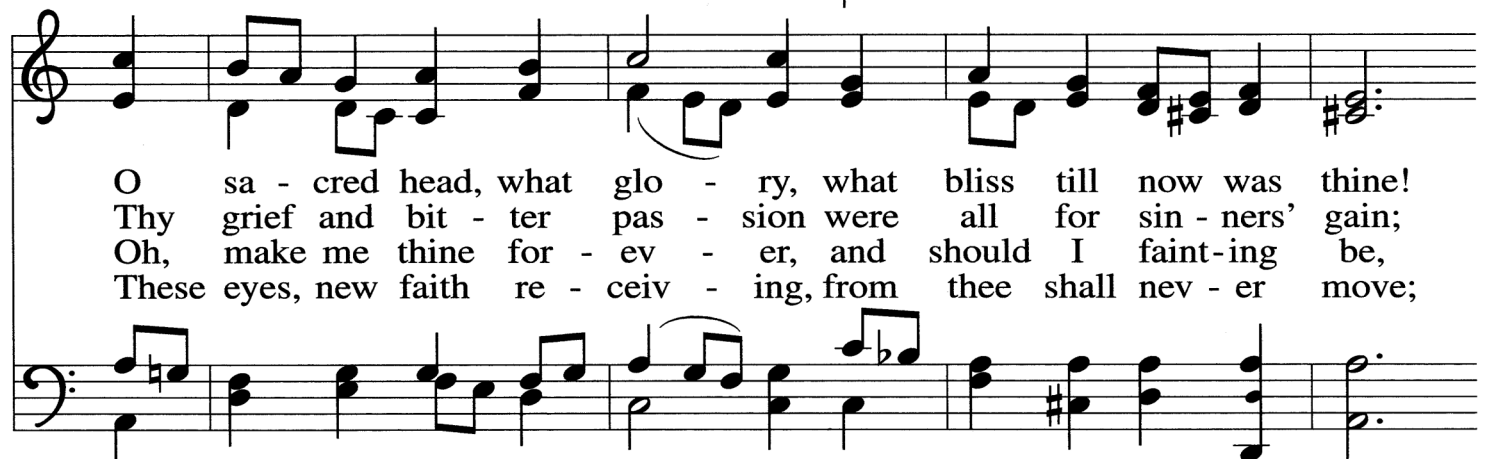
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



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.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional
Good Friday - March 29, 2024

“And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.”
- Hebrews 4:9 -

Holy week is a good time to ask the deep questions of our faith. Who is Jesus? What did He do? What does this mean for my life? These questions might not offer any new insights, but they help us to focus on Jesus Christ at a time when the world is watching. It helps us witness to this truth of Christian faith: we can't get to the Resurrection without the Crucifixion. Perhaps this seems obvious, but most people would rather believe in the triumph of Christ and ignore the suffering. Even many Christians would rather jump from Palm Sunday to Easter.

It is easy to believe in the Resurrection. God is all-powerful; God gives life and it is no surprise that He can raise someone from the dead. We don't expect any less from the Lord God Almighty. The proclamation of Easter brings joy and peace. Even those who do not believe in Jesus enjoy the celebration of Easter and its focus on life, renewal, and joy.

It is a lot harder to believe in Good Friday. God is all-powerful, why would His Son, our Lord Jesus, have to suffer such incredible pain and humiliation? Why did He have to die? How can any of this be good? Even if we can give the right theological answers to the questions of Good Friday, we still wonder in our hearts why it had to be this way. The world rejects the cross as foolishness; it is not surprising because even believers have a hard time understanding it.

We cannot reject the events of Good Friday, however. The crowds came looking for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane with Judas as their guide. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss; the soldiers arrested Him. Jesus was tried, sent back and forth between the Romans and Jews; no one wanted to be responsible for a death they were convinced was necessary. He was humiliated and beaten. The people chose to set a murderous thief free rather than the King of Creation. His disciples fled, Peter denied Him. It might seem like God lost control, but it was there that we see truly see His power. Jesus' way of being in the world caused him to be there; he was too good, too perfect for a society of sinners. We destroyed the Son of God on that horrible day. But that's not the end of the story. . .