

# Good Friday Service of Darkness

April 18, 2025



## AS WE GATHER

Today is Good Friday, the day on which we remember our Lord's suffering and death. In the hours leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, Pilate asked Jesus, *"What is truth?"* What Pilate did not realize was that he *saw* the Truth was standing right before Him. *"After [Pilate] had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, 'I find no guilt in him.'"* (John 18:38). Here Pilate *spoke* the truth—namely, there indeed is no guilt in Jesus. Yet Jesus—the innocent One—willingly allowed Himself to be sentenced to the death of a criminal. He did not save Himself. Instead, He willingly died to save His enemies, and He willingly died to save us. He willingly suffered and died for the sins and the brokenness of the world. This solemn day is a day that is, for us, very good.

*In keeping the solemnity of this day, please refrain from conversation in the church sanctuary prior to the service. Your offering may be placed in the offering plate at the back of the center aisle.*

## ++++ OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

**People: And my mouth will declare your praise.**

*Psalms 51:15*

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**People: Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

*Psalms 70:1*

## THE PROPHECY OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

*Isaiah 53:4-6*

Leader: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

**People: Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

Leader: But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

**People: Upon him was the punishment that brought us peace, and by his wounds we are healed.**

Leader: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;

**People: and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Leader: 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.

**People: Amen.**



## The Passion According to St. Luke



### 435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain


*sts. 1–3*



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined  
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -  
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain  
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,  
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -  
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and  
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain

pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.  
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.  
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.  
Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87  
Text and tune: Public domain

BETRAYAL

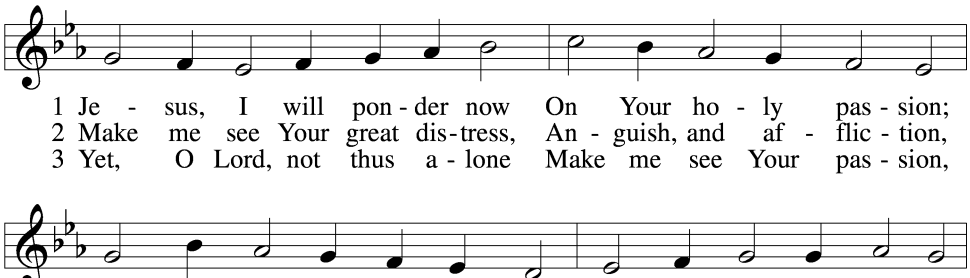
Luke 22:3-6, 47

<sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. <sup>4</sup> And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. <sup>5</sup> They were delighted and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup> He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present...  
<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup> but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Reflection

Extinguishing of the 1st Candle

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now sts. 1–3



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,

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.

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;

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.

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

MOCKING

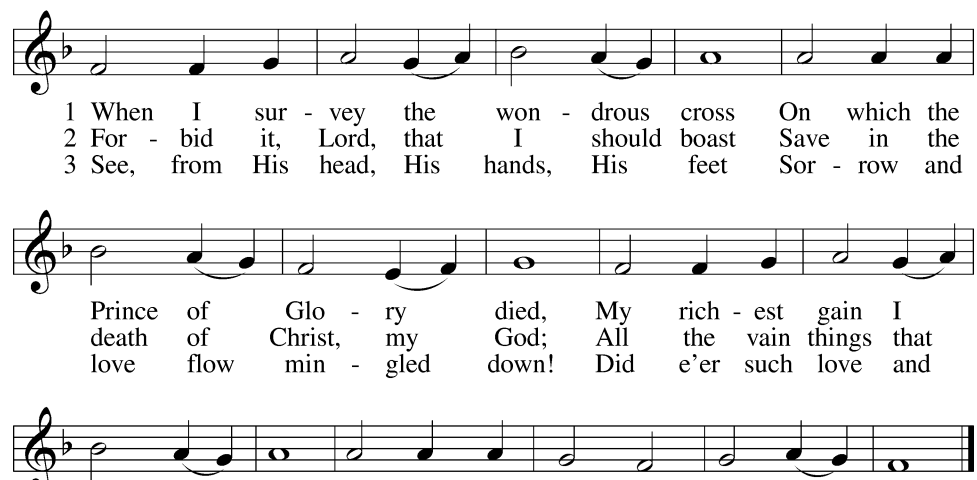
Luke 22:63-71

<sup>15</sup> The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. <sup>64</sup> They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" <sup>65</sup> And they said many other insulting things to him. <sup>66</sup> At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. <sup>67</sup> "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, <sup>68</sup> and if I asked you, you would not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." <sup>70</sup> They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am." <sup>71</sup> Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

Reflection

Extinguishing of the 2nd Candle

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross sts. 1–3



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

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

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?

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748    Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872    Text and tune: Public domain

ACCUSATIONS Luke 23:1-12

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king." <sup>3</sup> So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. <sup>4</sup> Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." <sup>5</sup> But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here." <sup>6</sup> On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. <sup>9</sup> He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod and his soldiers

ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That day Herod and Pilate became friends--before this they had been enemies

Reflection

Extinguishing of the 3rd Candle

HYMN - By His Wounds Isaiah 53:5

He was pierced for our transgressions He was crushed for our sins  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him  
And by His wounds – By His wounds, we are healed. (REPEAT)

We are healed by Your sacrifice And the life that You gave  
We are healed for You paid the price  
By Your grace, we are saved – We are saved

He was pierced for our transgressions He was crushed for our sins  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him  
And by His wounds – By His wounds, we are healed

We are healed by Your sacrifice And the life that You gave  
We are healed for You paid the price By Your grace, we are saved – We are saved  
He was pierced for our transgressions He was crushed for our sins  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him  
And by His wounds – By His wounds, we are healed. By His wounds, by His wounds,

What can wash away my sin Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

SUFFERING Luke 23:13-25


Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I will punish him and then release him. <sup>17</sup> " <sup>18</sup> With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" <sup>19</sup>

(Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)  
<sup>20</sup> Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. <sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" <sup>22</sup> For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." <sup>23</sup> But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided to grant their demand. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.


Reflection

Extinguishing of the 4th Candle


450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded sts. 1–3




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;



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.



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;



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.

CRUCIFIXION


Luke 23:26-43

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. <sup>28</sup> Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' <sup>30</sup> \_\_\_ "they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" <sup>31</sup> For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" <sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." <sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."


Reflection

Extinguishing of the 5th Candle

433 Glory Be to Jesus sts. 1–4



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre-cious stream  
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!  
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!  
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!  
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

DEATH

Luke 23:44-56

<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.

Reflection

Extinguishing of the 6th Candle

547 The Lamb

sts. 1, ref, 2–4

Musical notation for hymn 547, "The Lamb". The hymn is in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four stanzas of lyrics, each with a corresponding musical line. The lyrics are: 1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice? 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing. 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness. Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price! The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill. He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness. Refrain Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Text and tune: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953–2023  
Text and tune: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001353

BURIAL

Luke 24:50-54

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, <sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

Extinguishing of the 7th Candle

456 Were You There

sts. 1–3

Musical notation for hymn 456, "Were You There". The hymn is in B-flat major and 4/4 time. It consists of three stanzas of lyrics, each with a corresponding musical line. The lyrics are: 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you 2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you 3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ... there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ... there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ... Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text and tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Lord’s Prayer** *(whispered by the congregation)*

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.

**Christ Candle Removed—Closing of the Tomb**

**Return of the Christ Candle**

*The congregation departs in silence.*

*The Christ Candle remains burning as a reminder that even in the midst of death and darkness, the forces of hell cannot overcome the light of Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is the light of the world and gives us the certain hope of our resurrection from death!*

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**THANK YOU...**

- To Our Youth for Assisting with the Service Tonight.
- To Our Musicians, Our Vocalists, and All Who Helped with the Service

**EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- Sunrise Service with Communion - 7:00 a.m.**
- Easter Breakfast - 8:00 a.m.**
- Sunday School - 8:45 a.m.**
- Easter Service with Communion - 10:00 a.m.**