



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

Good Friday Worship

April 18, 2025

It’s a beautiful paradox that the most tragic event in human history – the death of God – is acknowledged on a day we call “Good Friday.” Perhaps it feels odd to call the celebration of a death “good.” However, hear what St. Paul says happens on this day: “God...reconcile(d) to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” God made eternal peace with you and with all the broken creation. Not only is that GOOD news, it’s the BEST news.

All enter the church in silence.

Stand

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Collect of the Day

- 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.

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 v 1-3

1 Jesus, I will ponder now

**On your holy passion;
With your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain, and death
That I may not perish.**

**2 Make me see your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound you,
How for them you died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned you.**

**3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of your crucifixion.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:36-56

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-sixth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from

me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵² “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

L This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436 v 1-2

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from him to bear the cross.**

Gospel Reading

Mark 14:32-50

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

³⁹ Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹ Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise! Let us go! Here comes

my betrayer!”

⁴³ Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

L This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Jesus in Your Dying Woes

LSB 447 v 10-12 and 3

- 10** Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from heav’n is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 11** When we seem in vain to pray
And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 12** Though no Father seem to hear,
Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 3** Oh, may we, who mercy need,
Be like you in heart and deed,
When with wrong our spirits bleed:

Hear us, holy Jesus.

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:39-53

³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

⁴⁷ 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, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

L This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 v 4-6

4 Grant that I your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to you
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun

Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?

- 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.

Homily

Liturgy

I Women **II** Men

P In the beginning...

I *was the word*

II *and the word was with God*

C **and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning.**

P In him was life,

I *and that life was the light of all mankind.*

II *The light shines in the darkness*

C **And the darkness has not overcome it.** (*John 1:1-2,4-5*)

L At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. (*Mark 15:33*)

Gospel

John 18-19 (The Voice)

When Jesus finished praying, he began a brief journey with his disciples to the other side of the Kidron Valley, a deep ravine that floods in the winter rains, then farther on to a garden where he gathered his disciples.

²⁻³ Judas Iscariot (who had already set his betrayal in motion and knew that Jesus often met with the disciples in this olive grove) entered the garden with an entourage of Roman soldiers and officials sent by the chief priests and Pharisees. They brandished their weapons under the light of torches and lamps. ⁴ Jesus stepped forward. It was clear he was not surprised because he knew all things.

Jesus: Whom are you looking for?

C Judas's Entourage: Jesus the Nazarene.

Jesus: I Am.

Judas, the betrayer, stood with the military force. ⁶ As Jesus spoke "I Am," the forces fell back on the ground. ⁷ Jesus asked them a second time:

Jesus: Whom are you searching for?

C Judas's Entourage: Jesus the Nazarene.

Jesus: ⁸ I have already said that I Am. If you are looking for me, then let these men go free.

⁹ This happened to fulfill the promise he made that none of those entrusted to him will be lost. ¹⁰ Suddenly Peter lunged toward Malchus, one of the high priest's servants; and with his sword, Peter severed the man's right ear.

Jesus (to Peter): ¹¹ Put down your sword, and return it to the sheath. Am I to turn away from the cup the Father has given me to drink?

Lamb of God

LSB 550 v 1

**1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent him from your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain**

*ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

¹² So the Roman commander, soldiers, and Jewish officials arrested Jesus, cuffed his hands and feet, ¹³ and brought him to Annas (the father-in-law of Caiaphas the high priest). ¹⁴ You may remember that Caiaphas counseled the Jews that one should die for all people. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Simon Peter and another disciple followed behind Jesus. When they arrived, Peter waited in the doorway while the other disciple was granted access because of his relationship with the high priest. That disciple spoke to the woman at the door, and Peter was allowed inside.

C **Servant Girl (to Peter): You are one of this man's disciples, aren't you?**

Peter: I am not.

¹⁸ All the servants and officers gathered around a charcoal fire to keep warm. It was a cold day, and Peter made his way into the circle to warm himself.

C **Annas (to Jesus): Who are your disciples, and what do you teach?**

Jesus: ²⁰ I have spoken in public where the world can hear, always teaching in the synagogue and in the temple where the Jewish people gather. I have never spoken in secret. ²¹ So why would you need to interrogate me? Many have heard me teach. Why don't you question them? They know what I have taught.

²² While Jesus offered his response, an officer standing nearby struck Jesus with his hand.

C **Officer: Is that how you speak to the high priest?**

Jesus: ²³ If I have spoken incorrectly, why don't you point out the untruths that I speak? Why do you hit me if what I have said is correct?

²⁴ Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas bound as a prisoner. ²⁵ As this was happening, Peter was still warming himself by the fire.

Lamb of God

LSB 550 v 2

2 **Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned him as he died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain**

*ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

**C Servants and Officers: You, too, are one of his disciples,
aren't you?**

Peter: No, I am not.

²⁶ One of the high priest's servants who was related to *Malchus*—the person Peter *attacked and* cut off his ear—*recognized Peter*.

**C High Priest's Servant: Didn't I see you in the garden
with him?**

²⁷ Peter denied it again, and instantly a rooster crowed.

²⁸ Before the sun had risen, Jesus was taken from Caiaphas to the governor's palace. The Jewish leaders would not enter the palace because their presence in a Roman office would defile them and cause them to miss the Passover feast. Pilate, the governor, met them outside.

C Pilate: What charges do you bring against this man?

Priests and Officials: ³⁰ If he weren't a lawbreaker, we wouldn't have brought him to you.

C Pilate: ³¹ Then judge him yourselves, by your own law.

Jews: Our authority does not allow us to give him the death penalty.

³² All these things were a fulfillment of the words Jesus had spoken indicating the way that he would die. ³³ So Pilate reentered the governor's palace and called for Jesus to follow him.

C Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: ³⁴ Are you asking me because you believe this is true, or have others said this about me?

C **Pilate: I'm not a Jew, am I? Your people, including the chief priests, have arrested you and placed you in my custody. What have you done?**

Jesus: ³⁶ My kingdom is not recognized in this world. If this were my kingdom, my servants would be fighting for my freedom. But my kingdom is not in this physical realm.

C **Pilate: So you are a king?**

Jesus: You say that I am king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the cosmos: to demonstrate the power of truth. Everyone who seeks truth hears my voice.

C **Pilate (to Jesus): What is truth?**

Pilate left Jesus to go and speak to the Jewish people.

C **Pilate (to the Jews): I have not found any cause for charges to be brought against this man. ³⁹ Your custom is that I should release a prisoner to you each year in honor of the Passover celebration; shall I release the King of the Jews to you?**

Jews: ⁴⁰ No, not this man! Give us Barabbas!
You should know that Barabbas was a terrorist.

Lamb of God

LSB 550 v 3

3 **I was so lost, I should have died,
But you have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain**

ref ***O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.***

Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted thorny branches together as a crown and placed it onto his brow and wrapped him in a purple cloth. ³ They drew near to him, shouting:

Soldiers (*striking at Jesus*): Bow down, everyone! This is the King of the Jews!

C **Pilate** (*going out to the crowd*): Listen, I stand in front of you with this man to make myself clear: I find this man innocent of any crimes.

⁵ Then Jesus was paraded out before the people, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.

C **Pilate: Here is the man!**

Chief Priests and Officers (*shouting*): ⁶ Crucify, crucify!

C **Pilate: You take him and crucify him; I have declared him not guilty of any punishable crime!**

Jews: ⁷ Our law says that he should die because he claims to be the Son of God.

⁸ Pilate was terrified to hear the Jews making their claims for his execution; ⁹ so he retired to his court, the Praetorium.

C **Pilate** (*to Jesus*): Where are you from?

Jesus did not speak.

C **Pilate: How can you ignore me? Are you not aware that I have the authority either to free you or to crucify you?**

Jesus: ¹¹ Any authority you have over me comes from above, not from your political position. Because of this, the one who handed me to you is guilty of the greater sin.

¹² Pilate listened to Jesus' words. Taking them to heart, he attempted to release Jesus; but the Jews opposed him, shouting:

Jews: If you release this man, you have betrayed Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king threatens Caesar's throne.

¹³ After Pilate heard these accusations, he sent Jesus out and took his seat in the place where he rendered judgment. This place was called the Pavement, or Gabbatha in Hebrew. ¹⁴ All this occurred at the sixth hour on the day everyone prepares for the Passover.

C **Pilate** (*to the Jews*): Look, here is your King!

Jews: ¹⁵ Put him away; crucify him!

C **Pilate: You want me to crucify your King?**

Chief Priests: We have no king but Caesar!

¹⁶ Pilate handed him over to his soldiers, knowing that he would be crucified. ¹⁷ They sent Jesus out carrying his own instrument of execution, the cross, to a hill known as the Place of the Skull, or Golgotha in Hebrew. ¹⁸ In that place, they crucified him along with two others. One was on his right and the other on his left.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LSB 451 v 1-2

- 1 **Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

- 2 **Tell me, ye who hear him groaning,
Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning,
Foes insulting his distress;
Many hands were raised to wound him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
Was the stroke that justice gave.**

¹⁹ Pilate ordered that a plaque be placed above Jesus' head. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Because the site was near an urban region, it was written in three languages (Greek, Latin, and Hebrew) so that all could understand.

C **Chief Priests (to Pilate): Don't write, "The King of the Jews." Write, "he said, 'I am King of the Jews!'"**

Pilate: ²² I have written what I have written.

²³ As Jesus was being crucified, the soldiers tore his outer garments into four pieces, one for each of them. They wanted to do the same with his tunic, but it was seamless—one piece of fabric woven from the top down. ²⁴ So they said,

Soldier (*to other soldiers*): Don't tear it. Let's cast lots, and the winner will take the whole thing.

This happened in keeping with the Hebrew Scriptures, which said, "They divided my outer garments and cast lots for my clothes." These soldiers did exactly what was foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures. ²⁵ Jesus' mother was standing next to his cross along with her sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ Jesus looked to see his mother and the disciple he loved standing nearby.

C **Jesus** (*to Mary, his mother*): **Dear woman, this is your son** (*motioning to the beloved disciple*)! ²⁷ (*to John, his disciple*) **This is now your mother.**

Now you know who "the beloved disciple" is: the last eyewitness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Mary has become family to John, fulfilling the dying wish of Jesus, his Savior. For those who are gathered at the foot of the cross, family is less about blood kinship than it is about covenant obedience.

The mother of the Lord will serve the redemptive purposes of her son and the Savior of the world until her last day on earth. Anyone feeling sorry for himself should think about Jesus. He spent all this time before his death, and through his death, demonstrating how to love and how to serve. He is asking John to do no more in serving Mary than he did in serving us.

From that moment, the disciple treated her like his own mother and welcomed her into his house. ²⁸ Jesus knew now that his work had been accomplished, and the Hebrew Scriptures were being fulfilled.

C **Jesus: I am thirsty.**

²⁹ A jar of sour wine had been left there, so they took a hyssop branch with a sponge soaked in the vinegar and put it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus drank, He spoke:

C **Jesus: It is finished!**

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LSB 451 v 1-2

3 **Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great**

**Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.**

**4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.**

In that moment, his head fell; and he gave up the spirit. ³¹ The Jews asked Pilate to have their legs broken so the bodies would not remain on the crosses on the Sabbath. It was the day of preparation for the Passover, and that year the Passover fell on the Sabbath. ³² The soldiers came and broke the legs of both the men crucified next to Jesus. ³³ When they came up to Jesus' cross, they could see that he was dead; so they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one soldier took his spear and pierced his abdomen, which brought a gush of blood and water.

³⁵ This testimony is true. In fact, it is an eyewitness account; and he has reported what he saw so that you also may believe. ³⁶ It happened this way to fulfill the Hebrew Scriptures that "not one of His bones shall be broken"; ³⁷ and the Hebrew Scriptures also say, "They will look upon Him whom they pierced."

³⁸ After all this, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple who kept his faith a secret for fear of the Jewish officials, made a request to Pilate for the body of Jesus. Pilate granted his request, and Joseph retrieved the body. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who first came to Jesus under the cloak of darkness, brought over 100 pounds of myrrh and ointments for his burial. ⁴⁰ Together, they took Jesus' body and wrapped him in linens soaked in essential oils and spices, according to Jewish burial customs.

⁴¹ Near the place he was crucified, there was a garden with a newly prepared tomb. ⁴² Because it was the day of preparation, they arranged to lay Jesus in this tomb so they could rest on the Sabbath.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy.

G Lord, have mercy.

P Christ, have mercy.

G Christ, have mercy.

P Lord, have mercy.

G Lord, have mercy.

Prayer

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 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.

G Amen.

The Tree of Life

LSB 561 v.4 (tune 550)

4 Now from that tree of Jesus' shame
Flows life eternal in his name;
For all who trust and will believe,
Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood
The tree of life with ev'ry good.

Old Testament Liturgy

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

L See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him – so marred was his appearance, beyond

human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals –

- C** So he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.
- L** Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- C** For 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, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- L** He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.
- C** Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.
- L** But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- C** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.
- L** By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.
- C** They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- L** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
- C** When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
- L** Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction

through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

- © Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

Approaching of the Cross

“We know,” Paul tells us in Romans 6:6, “that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed.” You are invited to approach the cross to nail a symbol of your old nature to the Tree of Life. In this act we:

- ❖ *Remember the incomprehensible sacrifice made by Jesus the Son of Adam*
- ❖ *Acknowledge that we die with him so that God may give us newness of life*
- ❖ *Celebrate that when Christ’s death is our own it is truly Good Friday*

Lay Your Burdens Down

John and Toni Peterson

Were You There?

LSB 456 v. 1-2

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh . . .

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,

tremble,

tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh . . .

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,

tremble,

tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

During the second verse, the final candle is taken out from the sanctuary as the lights are completely turned off. After a brief time, a loud noise (strep itus) symbolizes the closing of the tomb, earthquake at the time of Christ's death, and the "closing of the book" of Jesus' sacrifice. After the loud noise, the candle is returned to its place on the altar, symbolizing that our redemption is complete.

Benediction

- P** By his stripes we are healed.
By his wounds, we are made whole.
Go in the name of Jesus Christ.
And live in the salvation made possible by the Goodness of this Friday.
- C** Amen.

Were You There

LSB 456, v.3

- 3** **Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh . . .
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The congregation leaves the church in silence.