



March 29, 2024

**WITH THAT, HE BOWED HIS HEAD AND GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT.**

*The Service of Tenebrae (Latin for “shadows” or “darkness”) has been celebrated by the church since ancient times. We hear the story of Christ’s passion as the worship space gradually descends into the darkness of Christ’s death. We leave this service in darkness and silence; yet we go with the hope that, come Easter morning, we will find the good news of an empty tomb.*

**SILENCE. TIME FOR MEDITATION AND PREPARATION.**

*Please rise as you are able when the worship leaders enter.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON – ISAIAH 52: 13-53:12**

*Read responsively.*

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 –**

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.

**Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

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.

**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.**

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

**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.

**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.**

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.

**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.**

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. 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.

**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.**

**Amen.**

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.

*You may be seated.*

## THE BETRAYAL

### READING: JOHN 18:1-14

P <sup>18</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples <sup>3</sup>So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” <sup>5</sup>They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. <sup>11</sup>Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?” <sup>12</sup>So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

*Silence for meditation. A candle is extinguished*

### HYMN

*Were You There*

**ELW 353**  
*Verses 1 & 2*

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*

Oh, 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?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

- P** O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you?  
Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the  
waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- C** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

### THE DENIAL

#### READING: JOHN 18:15-27

- L1 Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." <sup>18</sup>Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.
- <sup>19</sup>Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.
- <sup>25</sup>Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not."
- <sup>26</sup>One of the slaves 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?" <sup>27</sup>Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

*Silence for meditation. A candle is extinguished*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first five verses of the hymn. The second system contains the continuation of the lyrics from the first system. The third system contains the final two verses of the hymn. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with the Soprano part on the top staff, Alto on the second, Tenor on the third, and Bass on the bottom. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

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.



- P** O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- C** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

### THE TRIAL

#### READING: JOHN 18:28-38A

- L2** Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup>(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)
- <sup>33</sup>Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup>Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

*Silence for meditation. A candle is extinguished*

#### HYMN

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

**ELW 349**

*See page 8. Verses 3 thru 5*

- P** O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- C** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

## JESUS IS FLOGGED

### READING: JOHN 18:38B—19:8

P After Pilate had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” <sup>40</sup>They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a bandit. <sup>19:1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.” <sup>8</sup>Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever.

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

J. BRAHMS

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

## JESUS IS CONDEMNED

### READING: JOHN 19:9-16A

L1 Pilate entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” <sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.” <sup>13</sup>When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha.

<sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" <sup>15</sup>They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." <sup>16</sup>Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

*Silence for meditation. A candle is extinguished.*

# **HYMN**

## *Lamb of God*

**ELW 336**

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. God. O Lamb of  
 rod and to be called a lamb of God. God. God. O Lamb of

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me

in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- P** O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I grafted you into my people Israel, but you have made them scapegoats for your own guilt, I gave you to one another as sisters and brothers, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
- C** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

### **JESUS IS CRUCIFIED**

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### **READING: JOHN 19:16B-30**

**L2** So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” <sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup>So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” <sup>25</sup>And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*Silence for meditation. A candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

**ELW 338**

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up-on the way,  
 And from my con-trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon-tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**  
*You may be seated.*

### THE BURIAL

#### READING: JOHN 19:31-42

P Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.” <sup>38</sup>After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*Silence for meditation. A candle is extinguished.*

HYMN

*Were You There*

ELW 353

*Verses 3 & 4*

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*

Oh, 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?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

**P** We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.  
 May God be merciful and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.  
 Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.  
 We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.  
 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.  
 May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.  
 We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.

**HYMN**

*Were You There*

**ELW 353**

*Verse 5 sung by Bob Horton*

Presiding Minister ..... Pastor Barbara Jones  
 Organist..... Mitchell Bean  
 Lectors ..... Shelley Andrews, Laurie Jackson