

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm/Passion Sunday



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.
Please notify usher if you would like assistance

Sunday, April 2, 2023 – Palm/Passion Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA Performance on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Calling all Choir Members & anyone who would like to join the choir. I am requesting your presence at Bethesda Lutheran Church on Tues., April 18th at 5:30 pm for our first practice of the year. All are welcome!

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Please sign up so we may continue to enjoy coffee & fellowship after service. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board mounted in fellowship hall next to the serving window.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

April 6, Maundy Thursday – Dinner Church at 5:30pm (no live stream)
(Potluck & Worship together in Fellowship Hall)

April 7, Good Friday one service 9:00am in person & live stream.

April 9, Easter two services 8:30am & 10:00am in person and live stream.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

April 3, 2023 – April 9, 2023

Monday	4/3	10:00 am	Women's Devotion
		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Wednesday	4/5	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	4/6	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		5:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Dinner Church Worship in person (potluck)
Friday	4/7	9:00 am	Worship in person & online
Sunday	4/9	8:30 am	Easter Worship in person & online
		10:00 am	Easter Worship in person

ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

OPENING HYMN: “All Glory Laud and Honor” (vs 1-3) #344 ELW
(Please Rise on the last Verse)

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,

2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;

3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

An assisting minister or the presiding minister reads the processional gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion,
 Look, your king is coming to you,
 humble, and mounted on a donkey,
 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey

and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “That’s Why We Praise Him”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Silence is kept. Then the presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.

Everlasting God,

in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and forever. Amen.

HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:

I present *Ellianna Grace Houle* for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring *your child* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *her* among God's faithful people,
bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *her* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *her* in faith and prayer,
so that *your child* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your child* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *this child* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: **I do.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support *Ellianna Grace Houle* and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Ellianna Grace Houle, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

and of the Son,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

After each baptism, the assembly may respond with one of the following, a sung alleluia, or another acclamation (#209-213).

**Blessed be God, the source of all life,
the word of salvation,
the spirit of mercy.**

Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain *Ellianna Grace Houle* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Ellianna Grace Houle, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me
will have the light of life.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places.

SONG: “For This Child”

sung by Sherry Whipple

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Lectors: **Group 1**

Group 2

Darlene Christensen

Susan Samuelson

Kathy Carlson

Vicki Vossen

Mary Vukelich

Jeannine Bruesewitz

Sheila Penoyer

Merrily Jones

Group 1:

I. The betrayal of Judas

1: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

2: What will you give me if I betray him to you?

3: They paid him thirty pieces of silver.

4: And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Group 2:

II. The last supper

1: On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

2: Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

1: He said,

3: Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, “The Teacher says, my time is near; will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.”

4: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

1: When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

3: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

4: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

2: Surely not I, Lord?

3: The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

1: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

2: Surely not I, Rabbi?

3: You have said so.

4: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

3: Take, eat; this is my body.

1: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

3: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

HYMN: "Eat This Bread" (repeat 2 times)

#472 ELW

Eat this bread, drink this cup,

Come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup,

Trust in me and you will not thirst.

Group 1:

III. The Mount of Olives

1: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

2: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

1: Peter said to him,

3: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

2: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

3: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

4: And so said all the disciples.

Group 2:

IV. Gethsemane

1: Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

2: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

3: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

2: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

1: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

2: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

3: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

2: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

1: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

2: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

3: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

2: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

1: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

4: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

3: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

4: Greetings, Rabbi!

3: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

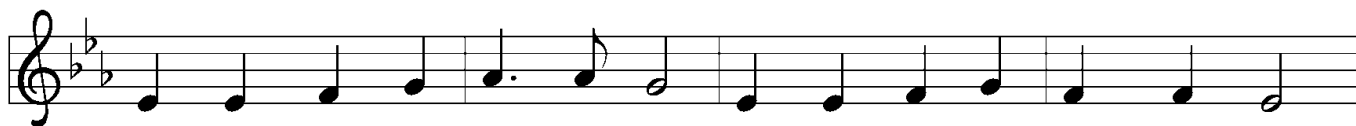
2: Friend, do what you are here to do.

3: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

1: Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,
 2: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?
 3: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,
 2: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.
 1: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

HYMN: “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (vs. 1-2)

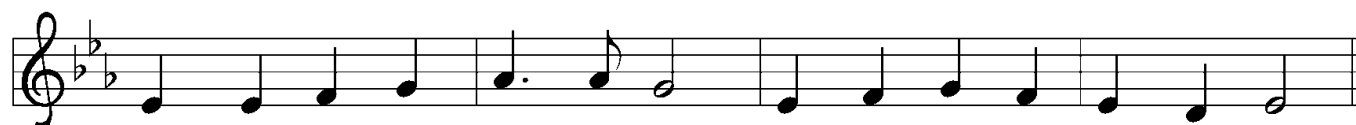
#347 ELW



1 Go to dark Geth-se-ma - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Group 1:

V. Trial before Caiaphas

1: Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might

put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

2: This fellow said, “I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.”

1: The high priest stood up and said,

3: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

1: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

3: I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

4: You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

1: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

3: He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

2: He deserves death!

1: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

2: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

Group 2:

VI. Peter’s denial; Judas’s death

1: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came and said to him,

2: You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

1: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

3: I do not know what you are talking about.

4: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

2: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

4: Again he denied it with an oath,

3: I do not know the man!

1: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

2: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

1: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

3: I do not know the man!

1: At that moment the cock crowed.

4: Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

1: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.

4: They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

1: When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

3: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

2: What is that to us? See to it yourself.

1: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

4: But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

2: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

4: After conferring together, they used the money to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners.

1: For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

HYMN: “Our Father, We Have Wandered” (vs. 1, 3)

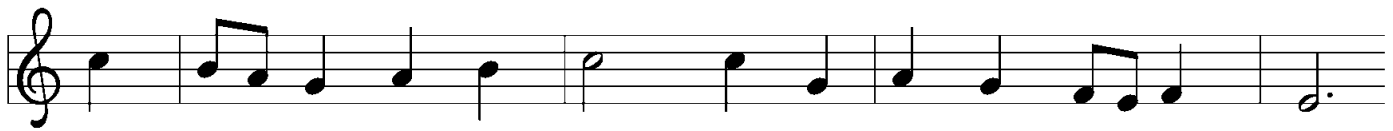
#606 ELW



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Group 1:

VII. Jesus before Pilate

1: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

2: Are you the King of the Jews?

3: You say so.

4: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

Then Pilate said to him,

2: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

1: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

4: Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

2: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

1: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him saying,

“Have nothing to do with this innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”

4: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

2: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

1, 3, 4: Barabbas!

2: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

1, 3, 4: Let him be crucified!

2: Why, what evil has he done?

1, 3, 4: Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified!

1: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

2: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

1, 3, 4: His blood be on us and on our children.

4: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

1: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took a reed and struck him on the head. And after mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Group 2:

VIII. Golgotha

1: As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

2: And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

1: Over his head they put the charge against him which read,

1, 2: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

1: Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

3: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

2: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

4: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.

2: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

HYMN: “Ah, Holy Jesus” (vs. 1-2)

#349 ELW



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



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,



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.

Group 1:

IX. Jesus' death

1: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

2: And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

3: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

2: that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

1: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

4: This man is calling for Elijah.

2: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

4: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

1: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

(Pause for at least one minute.)

...

1: At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many

bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

2: Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

4: Truly this man was God's Son!

2: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Group 2:

X. Burial

1: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and rapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

2: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

3: Sir, we remember what that imposter said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, "He has been raised from the dead" and the last deception would be worse than the first.

1: Pilate said to them,

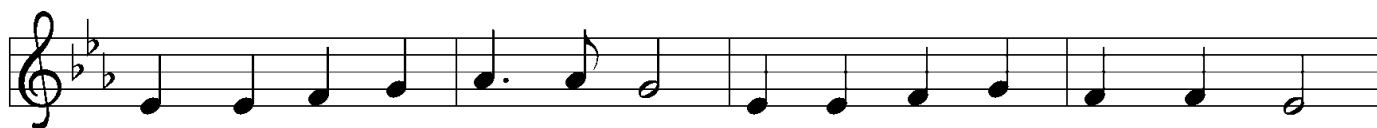
4: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

2: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

All readers: The gospel of the Lord.

HYMN: "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (vs. 1-2, 5)

#609 ELW



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won-drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE - *Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

OFFERING - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)

The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Baptized in Water" #456 ELW



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.