

**GOOD FRIDAY  
TENEBRAE  
WORSHIP SERVICE**



**GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

***THE NAILS OF THE CROSS***

***April 7, 2023***

*This service is a continuation of the worship begun last night, on Maundy Thursday. Our focus moves from the Last Supper and betrayal of Jesus to his suffering and dying on the cross for the sins of the world. You were handed a nail as you entered the service. Hold the nail through the service as you reflect on your own sinfulness before the cross of Christ. The readings will remind us of the meaning of that nail. Jesus receives us just as we are.*

# GATHERING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 52:13-15

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

LEADER: 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.

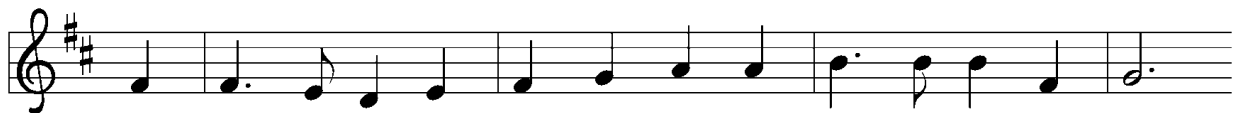
## GATHERING SONG: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*, ELW 338



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.

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

LEADER: Let us pray.

**PEOPLE:** O merciful God, you did not spare you only Son, but offered him up for us all, that he might bear our sins upon the cross. Grant that we might so examine ourselves that we realize our own sinfulness, so great as to spiritually crucify him anew. Help us to recognize those nails, which we drive into his cross today, and transform us into more faithful disciples in his name. AMEN.

### SONG: *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*, ELW 351



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;



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!



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;



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.

## **PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

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

**PEOPLE: O, come, let us worship him.**

## **THE NAILS OF THE CROSS**

### **THE NAIL OF PRIDE**

MARK 12:38-40

As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.

### **PRAYER**

LEADER: O God - help us consider our own pride and where it leads.

**PEOPLE: O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our pride hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

LEADER: O God, we know too that our pride hurts you.

## **THE NAIL OF BETRAYAL**

Matthew 26:47-56

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, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. 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, '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 in this way?' At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, '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.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

### **PRAYER**

LEADER: O God - help us consider how we betray others, how we abandon them in their time of need, how we think of ourselves first.

**PEOPLE: O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our acts of betrayal hurt us and create walls between us and others.**

LEADER: O God, we know, too, that our betrayal hurts you.

## **THE NAIL OF ENVY**

Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?  
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?

### **PRAYER**

**LEADER:** O God - help us consider how we envy others, how we desire more than we receive and seek to influence and rule over others.

**PEOPLE:** O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our envy hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

**LEADER:** O God, we know, too, that our envy hurts you.

## **THE NAIL OF INDECISION**

Matthew 27:20-24

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, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ And they said, ‘Barabbas.’ Pilate said to them, ‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ All of them said, ‘Let him be crucified!’ Then he asked, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Let him be crucified!’

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, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.’

## **SUNG RESPONSE**

Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?

Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?

## **PRAYER**

LEADER: O God - help us consider how we waver, how we seek to avoid responsibility and to blame others for our actions.

**PEOPLE: O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our indecision hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

LEADER: O God, we know, too, that our indecision hurts you.

## **THE NAIL OF CRUELTY**

Matthew 27:27-31, 39-42

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 the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, '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.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, '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.'

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

Were you there when they mocked the Son of God?  
Were you there when they mocked the Son of God?  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they mocked the Son of God?

### **PRAYER**

**LEADER:** O God - help us consider how we are cruel to others, how we malign and slander others and add to the evil that comes upon them.

**PEOPLE:** O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our cruelty hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

**LEADER:** O God, we know, too, that our cruelty hurts you.

### **THE NAIL OF HATRED**

Luke 6:22,32-35

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is



that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

## **SUNG RESPONSE**

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

## **PRAYER**

LEADER: O God - help us consider how we show hate to others, how we fail to care for others and make distinctions among them.

**PEOPLE: O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our hatred hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

LEADER: O God, we know, too, that our hatred hurts you.

## **THE RESPONSE**

### **ACT OF CONFESSION**

Isaiah 53:4-6

LEADER: But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried - *our* disfigurements, all the things wrong with *us*. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures.

**PEOPLE: But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him – *our* sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed.**

LEADER: We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him.

## **THE PROMISE OF MERCY**

Isaiah 53:7-13

LEADER 1: 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.

LEADER 2: 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.

*The Light will be Extinguished –  
for a time, ponder the death of Jesus in the darkness.  
During this time, Jay Rector will play Prelude in E Minor, Op. 28 No. 4,  
by Frederic Chopin.*

LEADER 1: 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.

LEADER 2: 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.

LEADER 1: Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

LEADER 2: The righteous one, God's servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

LEADER 1: 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.

**SONG: Ah, Holy Jesus, ELW 349**



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that man to  
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my



judge thee hath 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.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

**PRAYER**

**LEADER:** Let us pray. Lord God, you have given us everything. You have not held anything back, not even your only-begotten Son. With humble hearts we thank you. In new hope we offer to you ourselves. Be pleased, O God, in the name of Jesus, to accept all that we offer at this time. Look upon the intentions of our hearts. Hear our prayers and in your love answer.

*Silence for personal prayer.*

We ask all these things through him who taught us to pray to you, saying,

**PEOPLE:** 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.

*The service is dismissed quietly, with no benediction, because it will continue Sunday morning with the announcement of Christ's new life. Please greet one another outside of the Church in honor of this important death.*

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This service was written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild and Charlene E. Fairchild, copyright 1993, 2000. The readings were taken from *THE NRSV and THE MESSAGE*, by Eugene Peterson.

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

**Worship Leader:     Rev. Tim Herzfeldt-Kamprath**  
**Accompanist:       Brooke Benfield**

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*Join us for Easter Sunday!*

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**Easter Breakfast at 8:30 am**

**Worship at 9:30 am**

**Easter Egg Hunt after Worship (around 10:45 am)**