

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Pastor Rod McPherson
April 3, 2026
Good Friday
Tenebrae Service



“Service of Darkness”

How much did Jesus Love Us?



He stretched out his arms and died for us!

The congregation and pastor enter in silence.

Stand

Opening Versicles

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 22

Psalm 22; antiphon: v. 1

- ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
**Why are you so far from saving me, from the words
of my groaning?**
- ²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.
- ³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- ⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- ⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- ⁷All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- ⁸"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me,
**for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.**

¹²Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
**and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.**

¹⁶For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;

they have pierced my hands and feet—

¹⁷**I can count all my bones—**

they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸**they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.**

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off!

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,

my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹**Save me from the mouth of the lion!**

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

- ²²I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- ²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
**All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**
- ²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
- ²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
**those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!**
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
- ²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
**before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.**
- ³⁰Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
- ³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a
people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

A candle is extinguished.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Hymn- O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

450sts. 1-3



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
How doth Thy face now lan-guish That once was bright as morn!
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;



Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612

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Introduction to Readings

P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

Passion Reading

John 19:1-16

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold

the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha.

¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus,

A candle is extinguished.

Hymn- O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

450sts. 4-7



4 My Shep-herd, now re-ceive me; My Guard-ian, own me Thine.
5 What lan-guage shall I bor-row To thank Thee, dear-est Friend,
6 My Sav-ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
7 Be Thou my con-so-la-tion, My shield, when I must die;



Great bless-ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di-vine.
For this Thy dy-ing sor-row, Thy pit-y with-out end?
Then let Thy pres-ence cheer me, For-sake me nev-er-more!
Re-mind me of Thy pas-sion When my last hour draws nigh.



Thy lips have of-ten fed me With words of truth and love;
O make me Thine for-ev-er! And should I faint-ing be,
When soul and bod-y lan-guish, O leave me not a-lone,
Mine eyes shall then be-hold Thee, Up-on Thy cross shall dwell,



Thy Spir-it oft hath led me To heav'n-ly joys a-bove.
Lord, let me nev-er, nev-er, Out-live my love for Thee.
But take a-way mine an-guish By vir-tue of Thine own!
My heart by faith en-fold Thee. Who di-eth thus dies well.

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Stand

Passion Reading

John 19:16-42

¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place

where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But

when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Reading Response

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A candle is extinguished.

Responsory

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

A candle is extinguished.

Office Hymn- Were You There 456



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you
4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...
there when God raised Him from the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

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

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A candle is extinguished

Sermon

A candle is extinguished

Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Prayers

Kyrie

- P** Lord, have mercy.
- G** Lord, have mercy.

- P** Christ, have mercy.
- G** Christ, have mercy.

- P** Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

Concluding Collect

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 so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The final candle is extinguished.

The congregation leaves in silence and minimal light.

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