



Good Friday, April 2, 2021
Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth
The Crucifixion

PRELUDE

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

David Cherwien

WELCOME

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: Let us pray. Divine Servant,

You gave up all the power of the universe to serve humanity in the body of one who would endure great suffering. By your ultimate sacrifice you taught us how to serve. Make us grateful servants of the people of the earth, and feed our souls with your holy meal, for the sake of the one who held back nothing to give us everything, Jesus Christ, our savior.

MANY: AMEN

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 22: 1-5, 25-31

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied.
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

The Passion of Our Lord, According to Saint Luke

Luke 22:39 - Luke 23:49

Bible translation: The Voice

SONG

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

words by Sigismund von Birken,
music by Melchior Velpius

SCENE 1

NARRATOR 1: There is powerful consistency in Jesus' life. Again and again, He withdraws from the crowds in Jerusalem to pray in solitude. Now, at this dramatic moment, Jesus again withdraws to pray—in a solitude made more intense by the fact that He has asked His disciples to pray, too, but they have fallen asleep. And in this moment of anguished emotion, Jesus mouths a prayer that resonates with His consistent message of the Kingdom. He has taught His disciples to pray, "May Your kingdom come," which is a request for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Now, drenched in sweat, Jesus Himself prays simply for God's will to be done, even if it means He must drink the cup of suffering that awaits Him in the hours ahead.

We often speak of having faith in Jesus; but we seldom speak of the faith of Jesus, a faith He demonstrated consistently throughout His life and especially at its end. In a moment of agony, Jesus still trusted God, still yielded His will to God, and still approached God as "Father," placing Himself in the position of a child, in trust—profound, tested, sincere.

NARRATOR 2: 39 Once again Jesus left the city as He had been doing during recent days, returning to Mount Olivet along with His disciples. 40 And He came to a certain place.

JESUS: Pray for yourselves, that you will not sink into temptation.

NARRATOR 2: 41 He distanced Himself from them about a stone's throw and knelt there, 42 praying.

JESUS: Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me. Yet not My will, but Your will, be done.

NARRATOR 2: 43 Then a messenger from heaven appeared to strengthen Him. 44 And in His anguish, He prayed even more intensely, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. 45 When He rose from prayer and returned to the disciples, He found them asleep, weighed down with sorrow. 46 He roused them.

JESUS: Why are you sleeping? Wake up and pray that you will not sink into temptation.

NARRATOR 2: 47 Even as He said these words, the sound of a crowd could be heard in the distance, and as the crowd came into view, it was clear that Judas was leading them. He came close to Jesus and gave Jesus the traditional greeting of a kiss.

JESUS: 48 Ah, Judas, is this how you betray the Son of Man—with a kiss?

DISCIPLE 1: (*realizing what was going on*) 49 Lord, is this why You told us to bring the swords? Should we attack?

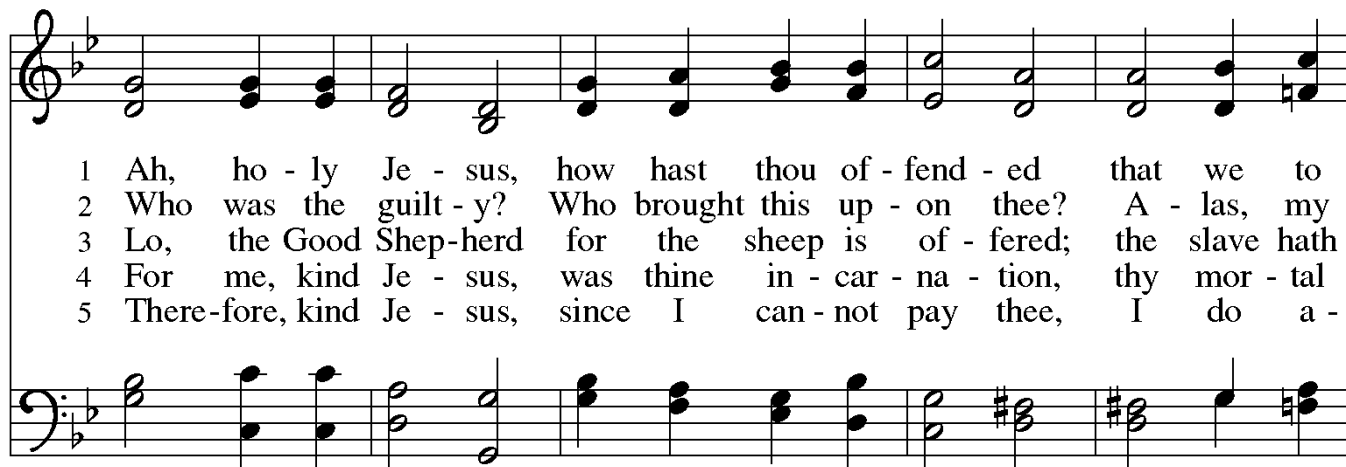
NARRATOR 2: 50 Before Jesus could answer, one of them had swung his sword at the high priest's slave, cutting off his right ear.

JESUS: 51 Stop! No more of this!

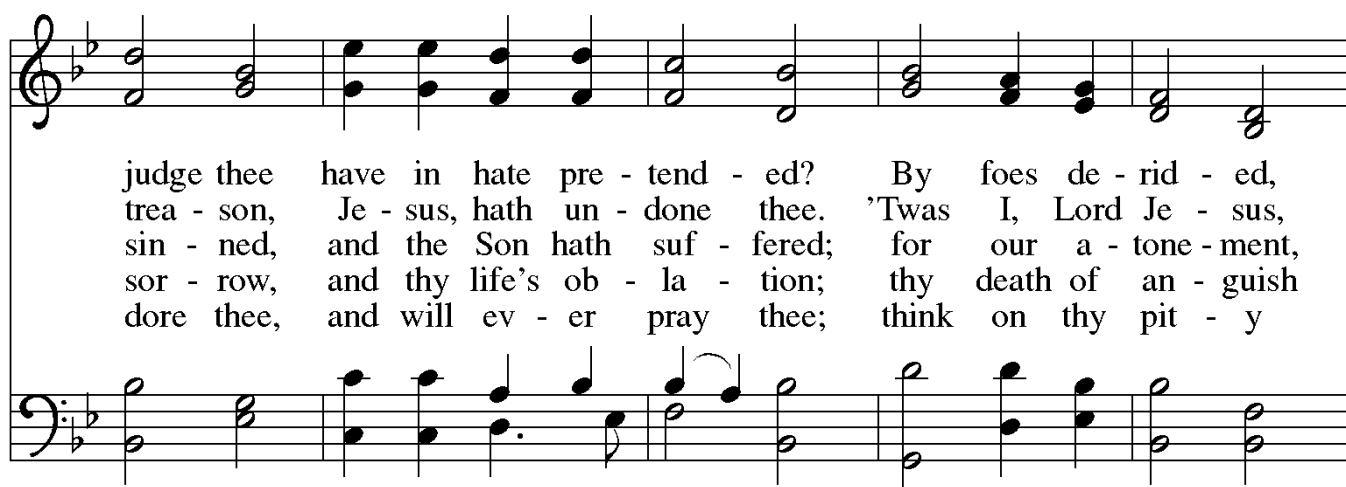
NARRATOR 2: Then He reached out to touch—and heal—the man's ear. 52 Jesus turned to the chief priests, the captains of the temple, and the elders and spoke.

JESUS: Do you think I'm some sort of violent criminal? Is that why you came with swords and clubs? 53 I haven't been hard to find—each day I've been in the temple in broad daylight, and you never tried to seize Me there. But this is your time—night time—and this is your power—the power of darkness.

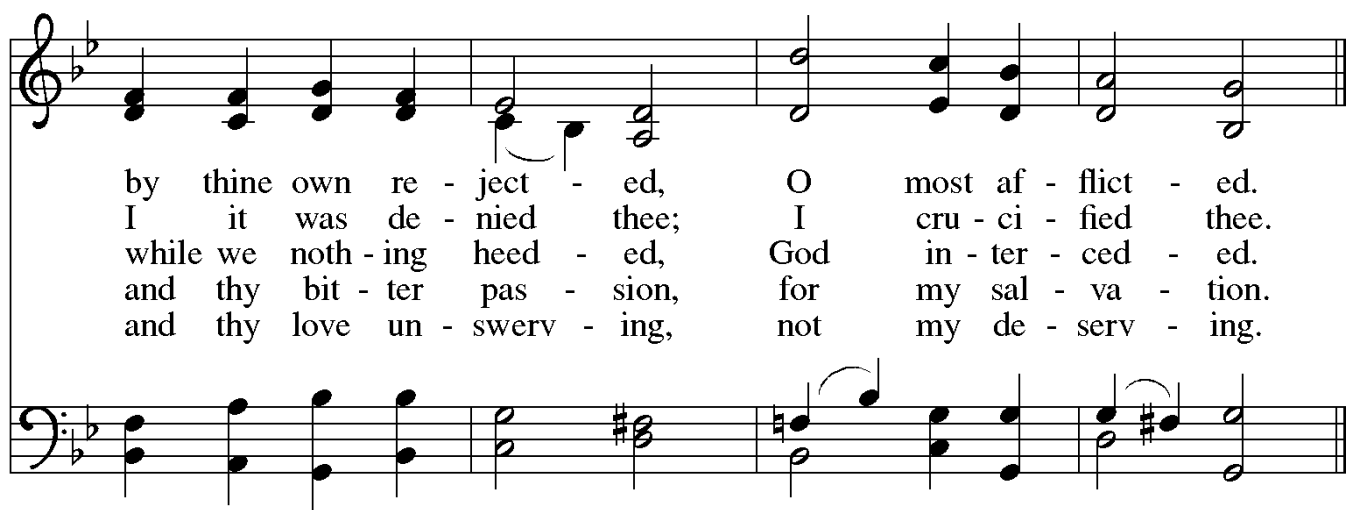
verse 1



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,
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sorrow, 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.

SCENE 2

NARRATOR 1: ⁵⁴ They grabbed Jesus at this point and took Him away to the high priest's home. Peter followed—at a distance. ⁵⁵ He watched from the shadows as those who had seized Jesus made a fire in the center of the courtyard and sat down around it. Then Peter slipped in quietly and sat with them. ⁵⁶ But a young servant girl saw his face in the firelight. She stared for a while and then spoke.

SERVANT GIRL: This fellow here was with Jesus. I recognize him.

PETER: (*denying it*) 57 Woman, I don't even know the man.

NARRATOR 1: 58 A little later, a man also recognized him.

MAN: I recognize you. You're one of Jesus' followers.

PETER: You're wrong. I'm not.

NARRATOR 1: 59 An hour or so passed, and then another person pointed to Peter.

ANOTHER PERSON: This fellow is obviously Galilean. He must be a member of Jesus' group.

PETER: 60 Look, I have no idea what you're talking about.

NARRATOR 1: And he hadn't even finished the sentence when a nearby rooster crowed. 61 The Lord turned toward Peter, and their eyes met. Peter remembered Jesus' words about his triple denial before the rooster would crow, 62 so he left the courtyard and wept bitter tears.

HYMN *Ah, Holy Jesus*

ELW 349

verse 2, see above

SCENE 3

NARRATOR 1: ⁶³ At this point, the men who were holding Jesus began to mock Him and beat Him. ⁶⁴ They put a blindfold on Him.

MAN HOLDING JESUS: Hey, Prophet! Use Your prophetic powers to tell us who just beat You!

NARRATOR 1: 65 They kept on with this sort of insulting, degrading treatment for quite some time. 66 When dawn had given way to full day, the Sanhedrin council assembled, consisting of religious leaders of the Sadducean party, along with the chief priests and religious scholars. They took Him to their headquarters for interrogation.

SANHEDRIN: 67 If you are the Anointed One whom God promised us, tell us plainly.

JESUS: If I give you an answer, you won't believe it. 68 And if I ask you a question, you won't answer it. 69 But this I will say to you: from now on, the Son of Man will take His seat at the right hand of the power of God.

SANHEDRIN: 70 So You are the Son of God, then?

JESUS: It's as you say.

SANHEDRIN: 71 What more evidence do we need? We've heard it with our own ears from His own lips.

NARRATOR 1: So the whole council got up and took Jesus to Pilate. 2 They brought accusations against Him.

SANHEDRIN: We have observed this man leading our nation astray. He even forbade us to pay our taxes to Caesar. He claims to be the Anointed One and a King Himself.

PILATE 3 Are You the King of the Jews?

JESUS: It's as you say.

PILATE: *(to the chief priest and crowd)* 4 I find this man guilty of no crime.

SANHEDRIN: *(growing more intense)* 5 He has been stirring up discontent among the people all over Judea. He started up in Galilee, and now He's brought His brand of trouble all the way to Jerusalem!

PILATE: 6 Just a minute. Is this man a Galilean?

NARRATOR 1: 7 When Pilate learned that Jesus was indeed Galilean—which meant He was officially under Herod’s jurisdiction—Pilate sent Him over to Herod, who was currently in Jerusalem. 8 Herod was fascinated

to meet Jesus for he had heard about Him for a long time. He was hoping he might be treated to a miracle or two. 9 He interrogated Jesus for quite a while, but Jesus remained silent, refusing to answer his questions. 10 Meanwhile the chief priests and religious scholars had plenty to say—angrily hurling accusations at Jesus. 11 Eventually Herod and his soldiers began to insult Jesus, mocking and degrading Him. They put expensive clothing on Him and sent Him back to Pilate. 12 This ended a long-standing rift between Herod and Pilate; they became friends from that day forward.

(brief pause)

13 Pilate assembled the chief priests and other Jewish authorities.

PILATE: 14 You presented this man to me as a rabble-rouser, but I examined Him in your presence and found Him not guilty of the charges you have leveled against Him. 15 Herod also examined Him and released Him to my custody. So He hasn't done anything deserving the death penalty. 16 I'll see to it that He is properly whipped and then let Him go.

NARRATOR 1: 17 It was the custom for Pilate to set one prisoner free during the holiday festivities.

CROWD: *(all shouting at once)* 18 Away with this man! Free Barabbas instead!

NARRATOR 1: 19 Barabbas had been imprisoned after being convicted of an insurrection he had led in Jerusalem. He had also committed murder. 20 Pilate argued with them, wishing he could release Jesus, 21 but they wouldn't be silenced.

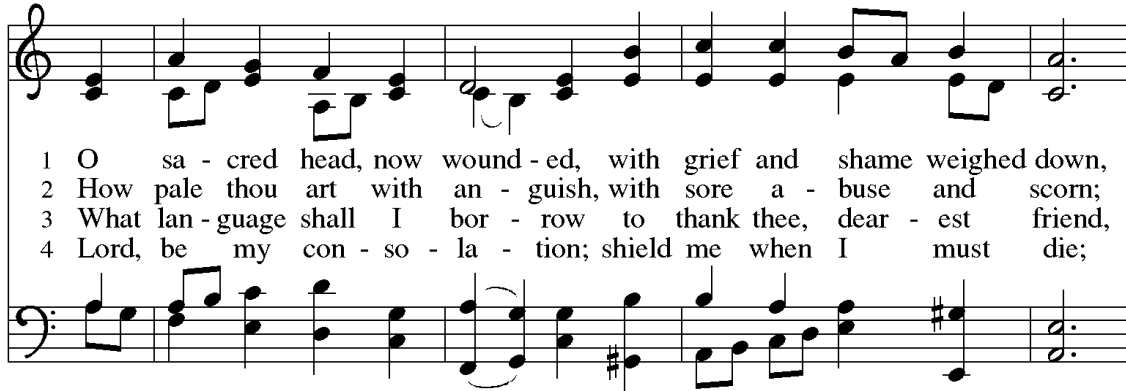
CROWD: *(shouting)* Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

PILATE: *(countering a third time)* 22 Why? What has He done that is so evil? I have found in Him no offense worthy of capital punishment. As I said, I will punish Him and then release Him.

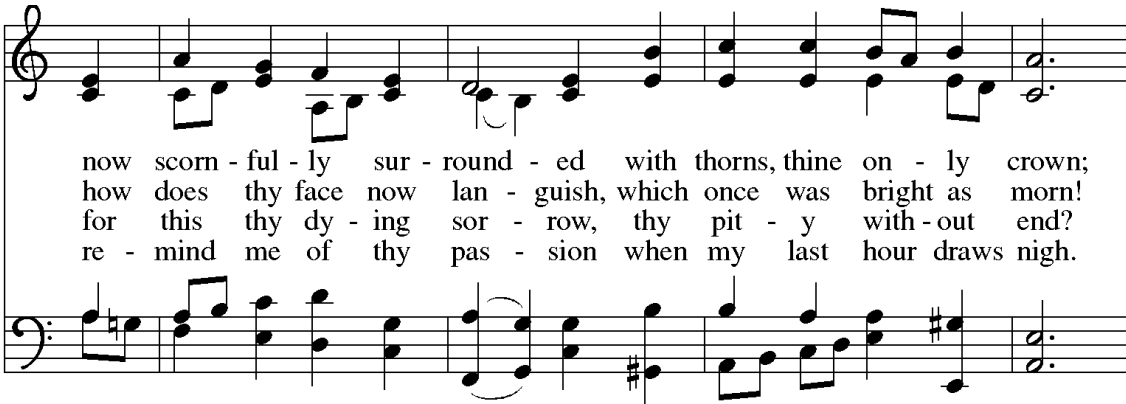
NARRATOR 1: 23 But they would not relent. They shouted louder and louder that He should be crucified, and eventually Pilate capitulated. 24 So he pronounced the punishment they demanded.

25 He released the rebel and murderer Barabbas—the insurrectionist they had pleaded for in His place—and he handed Jesus over to them to do with as they desired.

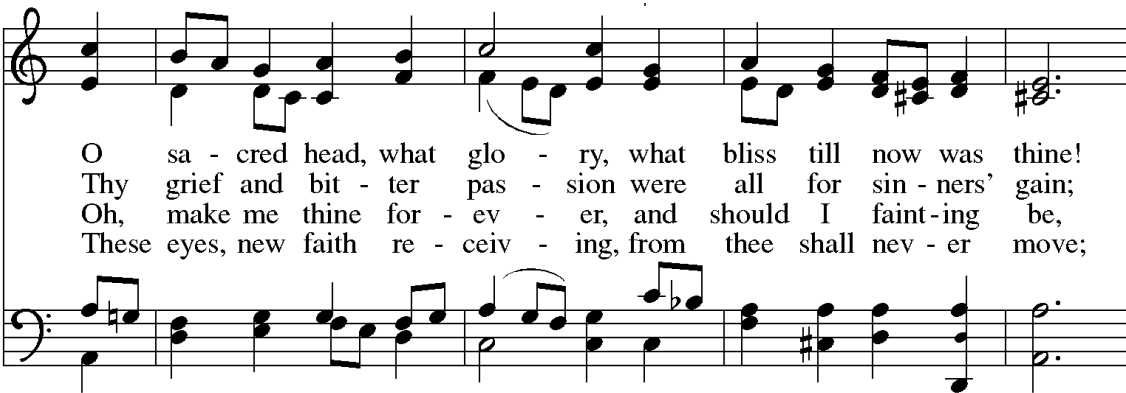
verse 1



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 - ges - 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.

SCENE 4

NARRATOR 2: 26 On the way to the place of crucifixion, they pulled a man from the crowd—his name was Simon of Cyrene, a person from the countryside who happened to be entering the city at that moment. They put Jesus' cross on Simon's shoulders, and he followed behind Jesus. 27 Along with Him was a huge crowd of common people, including many women shrieking and wailing in grief.

JESUS: *(to the people in the crowd)* 28 Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me. Weep instead for yourselves and weep for your children. 29 Days are coming when people will say, "Blessed are the infertile; blessed are the wombs that never bore a child; blessed are the breasts that never nursed an infant." 30 People will beg the mountains, "Surround us!" They'll plead with the hills, "Cover us!" 31 For if they treat Me like this when I'm like green unseasoned wood, what will they do to a nation that's ready to burn like seasoned firewood?

NARRATOR 2: 32 Jesus wasn't the only one being crucified that day. There were two others, criminals, who were also being led to their execution. 33 When they came to the place known as "The Skull," they crucified Jesus there, in the company of criminals, one to the right of Jesus and the other to His left.

JESUS: 34 Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351

verse 2, see above

SCENE 5

NARRATOR 2: Meanwhile they were drawing lots to see who would win Jesus' clothing. 35 The crowd of people stood, watching. 36 The soldiers joined in the mockery. First, they pretended to offer Him a soothing drink—but it was vinegar.

CENTURION: 37 Hey, if You're the King of the Jews, why don't You free Yourself!

NARRATOR 2: 38 Even the inscription they placed over Him was intended to mock Him—"This is the King of the Jews!" This was written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew.

(brief pause)

39 One of the criminals joined in the cruel talk.

CYNICAL CRIMINAL: You're supposed to be the Anointed One, right? Well—do it! Rescue Yourself and us!

NARRATOR 2: 40 But the other criminal told him to be quiet.

BELIEVING CRIMINAL: Don't you have any fear of God at all? You're getting the same death sentence He is! 41 We're getting what we deserve since we've committed crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong at all!

42 *(turning to Jesus)* Jesus, when You come into Your kingdom, please remember me.

JESUS: 43 I promise you that this very day you will be with Me in paradise.

(brief pause)

NARRATOR: 44 At this point, it was about noon, and a darkness fell over the whole region. The darkness persisted until about three in the afternoon, 45 and at some point during this darkness, the curtain in the temple was torn in two.

JESUS: *(shouting out loudly)* 46 Father, I entrust My spirit into Your hands!

NARRATOR 2: And with those words, He exhaled—and breathed no more.

47 The Centurion—one of the soldiers who performed the execution—saw all this, and he praised God.

CENTURION: No doubt, this man must have been innocent.

NARRATOR 2: 48 The crowds of common people who had gathered and watched the whole ordeal through to its conclusion left for their homes, pounding on their own chests in profound grief. 49 And all who knew

Jesus personally, including the group of women who had been with Him from the beginning in Galilee, stood at a distance, watching all of these things unfold.

MUSIC

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

ELW 337

PRAYERS

ONE: On Ash Wednesday our foreheads were marked, a reminder that we are dust. Jesus' story reminds us of so much more - we are Rising Strong. God is working revolution in our world and in our lives. Lord in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: People everywhere are following the way of Jesus by giving of themselves for the sake of the world. Strengthen all those working to end the global pandemic and empower all who are seeking to Rise Strong from this year of devastation and change. Lord in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: Holy Spirit, you work among us in ways we do not understand. We name before you, aloud and in our hearts, those we know who are in need of your healing and comfort ... victims of mass shootings, state sponsored violence in Myanmar...

ONE: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

MANY: AMEN

verses 1, 2, and 5



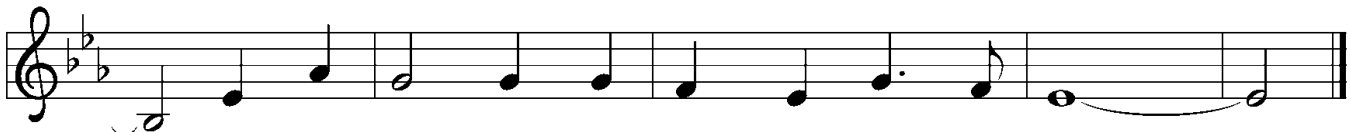
- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 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?



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 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?

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

ONE: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

MANY: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. AMEN

We depart in silence.

Easter Worship

BOTH live-streamed at peaceofplymouth.org AND in-person.

Visit <https://signup.com/group/1098134058065> to attend in-person. (Limited Sanctuary capacity.)

Easter Sunday

9:00am

Acknowledgements:

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- ELW 351 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*
Text by Paul Gerhardt,
German melody adapted by HAns Leo Hassler, HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN,
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- ELW 353 *Were You There*
African-American spiritual,
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Serving today:

Presider

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris

Organist and Pianist

Anne Phillips

Violinist

Sylvi Leppa

Cellist

Sonja Leppa

Cantors

Stefanie Fiser Kleven and Peter Leppa

Lector

Janelle Leppa

Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1
NARRATOR 2
JESUS
DISCIPLE 1
SERVANT GIRL
PETER
MAN
ANOTHER PERSON
MAN HOLDING JESUS
SANHEDRIN
PILATE
CYNICAL CRIMINAL
BELIEVING CRIMINAL
CENTURION

Kjell Ferris
Angela Akhigbe
Bobby Isbell
Pam Hughes
Joni Sutton
Roger Birnbaum
David Kleppe
Carol Forsberg
Matt Peterson
Steve Johnson
Don Davidson
David Jopke
Mark Stavrum
Nick Bonow

Worship Assistants

Eleanor Ferris, Heidi Ferris

Sound, Video & Livestream Coordinators

Steve Johnson, Stefanie Fiser Kleven,
Scott Rusten, Bob Samuelson

