



Good Friday Worship + The Passion According to St. John
Community of Christ Lutheran Church + Whitehouse, Ohio
March 29, 2024 + 7:00pm

Worship Over The Three Days

The Vigil of Easter (Holy Saturday) 7:00pm
The Resurrection of our Lord (Easter Sunday) 8:00am and 10:00am

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About Our Worship This Evening

"It is finished."

And with that final word of Jesus, there is nothing more to say. The story of Jesus' suffering and death will speak for itself tonight, as we hear the Passion according to St. John with no further commentary or homily, other than to say that the death of Jesus is really woven of one piece with the life of Jesus—in his speaking, acting, eating, serving, suffering, and dying, Jesus poured himself out for the world in one great motion of love and justice, truth and grace.

*In our worship this evening, we not only listen to what Christ Jesus has done in giving his life for us, but we also pray for the needs of the church and the world for whom Christ died. The traditional Bidding Prayer creates a rhythm of praying in which we are called to pray for a particular need, a time of brief silent prayer is kept, and then the Presiding Minister gathers our prayers in a spoken petition, to which the congregation responds, "Amen." Just as Jesus' spent his final hours caring for others in his words, his prayer, and his patient suffering, we mark this night caring for **all** in prayer.*

Even though we mark the death and burial of Jesus tonight, we know that these will not be the last word of the story. We end our worship tonight knowing there is another verse to be sung, another hope to be fulfilled, another promise to be kept. And so we depart in silence this evening, leaving unsaid those things for which we must wait, and knowing that all that is necessary to say is captured in those final words from our Lord, "It is finished."

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Good Friday—March 29, 2024 —7:00pm

+ Community of Christ Lutheran Church + Whitehouse, Ohio+

Gathering in Silence + *At this sign, all who are able are invited to stand.*

+ Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray: ☩ **Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been 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**

+ Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How art thou pale 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 that vis - age 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 he who dies be - liev - ing dies safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, c. 1250, tr. composite
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500, adapt. Hans L. Hassler, 1564–1612

First Lesson

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

*See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.*

¹⁴ *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—*

¹⁵ *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.*

^{53:1} *Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

² *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.*

³ *He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their face
he was despised, and we held him of no account.*

⁴ *Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.*

⁵ *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.*

⁶ *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.*

⁷ *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.*

⁸ *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.*

⁹ *They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
and made intercession for the transgressors.
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

Hymn

Go To Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



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!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



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.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Second Lesson

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested^a as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.... ^{5:7} In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The Passion According to St. John *(congregation remains seated)*

My Song Is Love Unknown, verse 1 John 18:1-14

My Song Is Love Unknown, verse 2 John 18:15-32

My Song Is Love Unknown, verse 3 John 18:33-19:16a

My Song Is Love Unknown, verse 4 John 19:16b-30

My Song Is Love Unknown, verse 5 John 19:31-42

My Song Is Love Unknown, verses 6-7



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

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|---|--|
| <p>5 They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away; a murderer they save, the prince of life they slay. Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes, that he his foes from thence might free.</p> | <p>6 In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have; in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home; but mine the tomb wherein he lay.</p> |
|---|--|

7 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Bidding Prayer

A Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church of God throughout the world that God the almighty Father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship in peace and tranquility, and for the world itself for which Christ died and was buried. *(Silent prayer follows.)*

P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to every people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Let us pray for...

*The Prayer continues with this pattern repeated several times—an invitation calling us to pray for particular needs, a space of time for silent prayer, a spoken petition, and the congregation's response of **Amen**.*

P Finally, Let us rise to pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, even in the words Jesus gave us:

+ **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**

+ **Placing of Nails** *All are invited to come forward and place a nail in the large wooden cross at the front of the center aisle, while the congregation sings, "Jesus, Remember Me..."*



Text: Luke 23:42
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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☐ Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

☑ Oh, come, let us worship Christ.

+ Hymn

Were You There

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?

+ Sending

☐ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

☑ By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The congregation departs in silence.