

A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

Good Friday

March 29, 2024



Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life.

To the parents of young children:

God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house - all are welcome! If you need to bring your child out of the service, the nursery is open for you with a TV in it streaming worship.

**Indicates an invitation to rise or stand*

Welcome

*Gathering Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus

ELW #349



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

*Prayer of the Day

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

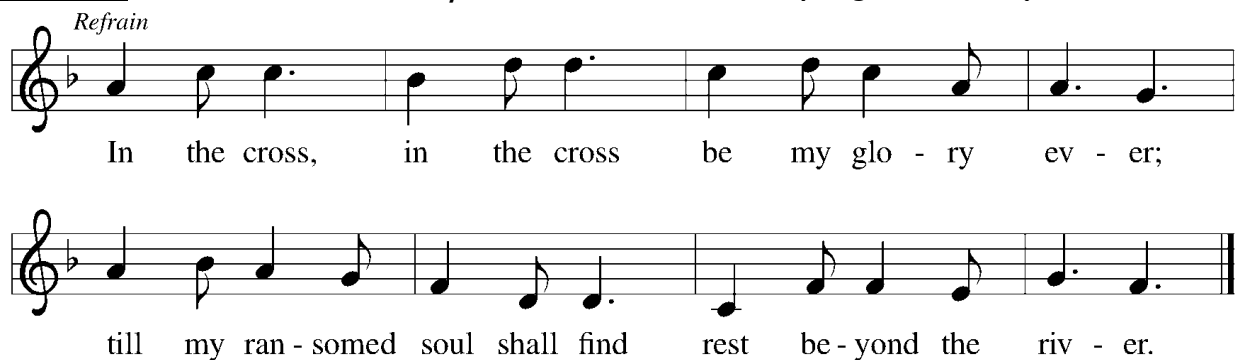
Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Procession of the Cross (repeated multiple times)

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

All: Oh, come, let us worship him.

Solemn Reproaches

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you? Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me. Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me. I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;

I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me. I planted you as my fairest vineyard,
but you brought forth bitter fruit;

I made you branches of the vine and never left your side,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me. I poured out saving water from the rock,
but you gave me vinegar to drink;

I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;
I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed;
I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

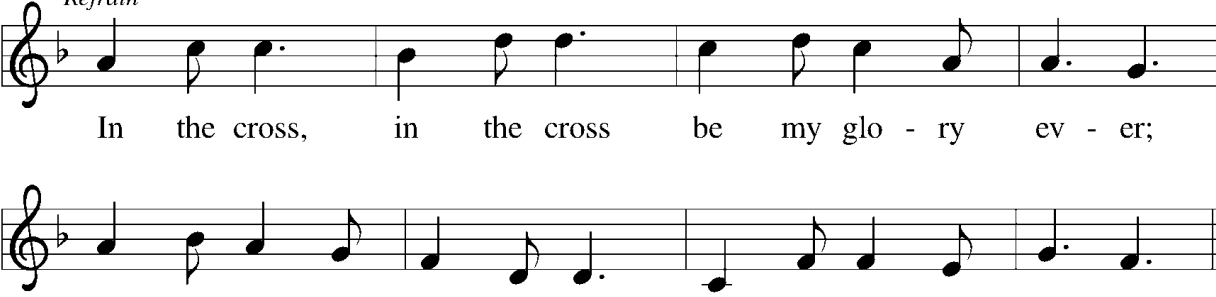
All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Hymn Refrain

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW #335

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;
till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land,
but you opened my side with a spear;
I washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights,
but you lifted me high on a cross;
I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I grafted you into my people Israel,
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me. I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters,
but I was hungry and you gave me no food,
thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A period of silence is kept for prayer and meditation.

Pastor: We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for
by your cross joy has come into the world.

**All: May God be merciful and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.**

**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

Pastor: We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

**All: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.**

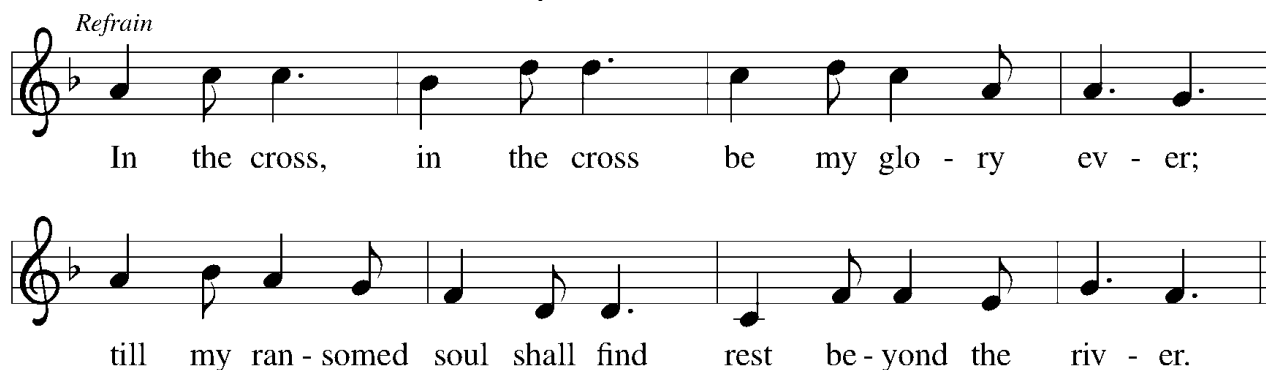
Pastor: We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

Hymn Refrain

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW #335

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;
till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Pastor: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Bidding Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray, brother and sisters; for the holy church throughout the world.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray for our bishops, for our pastors, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray for God's creation.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray for those in need.

BRIEF SILENCE.

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayer of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

All: 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.

Hymn

Stay with Me (sing twice)

ELW #348

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence. The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray." The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, and the second system covers the second line. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes.

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
pray. Watch and pray.

First Lesson – Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—⁵so 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? ²For 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. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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. ⁶All 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.

⁷He 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. ⁸By 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. ⁹They 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.

¹⁰Yet 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. ¹¹Out 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. ¹²Therefore 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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson – **Hebrews 10:16-25**

[After the Holy Spirit says,] ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Jesus Remember Me (sing twice)

ELW #616

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.

The first line of the hymn is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a half note and a quarter rest. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.

The second line of the hymn is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a half note and a quarter rest. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Gospel Lesson

Pastor: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

John 19: 16-18

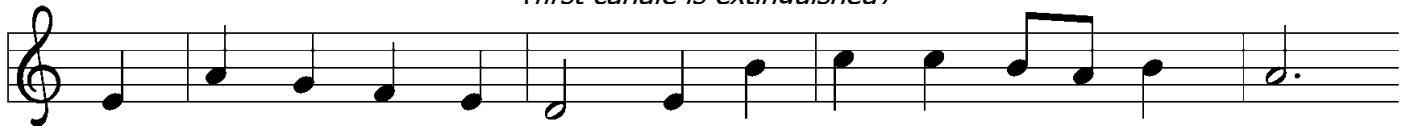
¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Hymn

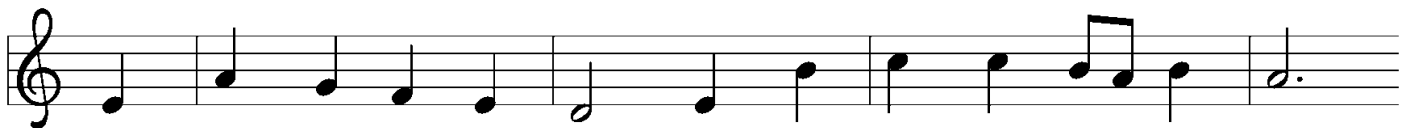
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (verse 1)

ELW # 351

(first candle is extinguished)



- 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.

John 19:19-22

⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (verse 2)
(second candle is extinguished)

John 19:23-25a

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (verse 3)
(third candle is extinguished)

John 19: 25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (verse 4)
(fourth candle is extinguished)

John 19: 28-30

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(fifth candle is extinguished)

- 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?

John 19: 31-32

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him.

(sixth candle is extinguished)

John 19: 33-37

³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

Hymn

Were You There (verse 3)
(The Christ candle is extinguished)

John 19: 38-40

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

Hymn

Were You There (verse 4)
(The Christ candle is removed)

John 19: 41-42

¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Hymn

Were You There (verse 5)

*There is no Benediction for this service.
You're invited to a moment of silent reflection before you dismiss.*

Easter Sunday, March 31 at 10:00am
(Easter breakfast starting at 8:30am. Cross decorating at 9:15am)

*This is the day the Lord has made!
Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new!
Come hear the story of Jesus' resurrection and help place flowers on the Easter cross!*

Prayer List

Please email admin@amflc.org if you would like to add a name to the prayer list.

Members: David Bass, Lynda Booth, Karen Bryant, Pastor Mary and Richard Lautensleger, Barbara McGee, Linda Meyer, Pastor John and Nancy Merck, and Betty Mick.

Loved Ones: Students and Staff at Paw Creek Elementary School, Mark Carolla (friend of Edna and John), Jonathan Davis (family of Mia Strong), Carol Howell (friend of the church), Anthony Long (incarcerated friend of the church), Tim Smith (NC Synod Bishop), and Isabel and Elmer Sundlie (Karen's family).

Worship Leadership

Pastor – Rev. Molly Kuekes, pastormolly@amflc.org

Organist/Music Director – Penny Damron

Pianist/Choir Director – Patti Skinner

Guitarists – Charles Burton, Paul Lover, & Timothy Gentsch

Ushers – Doug Wells & Debbie Wells

Worship Assistant – Amy Johnson

Sound Board Operator – Joe Brigman

Livestream Operator – Ron Cartier

Come worship in-person:
8200 McClure Circle, Charlotte, NC 28216

Or find us online:
www.amflc.org



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