

Please have a pen and paper ready to use later in the service.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously be with us for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross that He might draw the whole world to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our forgiveness and life may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

READING

Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed what he has heard from us? 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, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

² Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks Be to God**

HYMN "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" LSB 439, verses 1 & 2



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.

CONFESSION (*Placing of sins into the cross.*)

Pastor: Our Lord says: Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

People: We come to you, Jesus, burdened with our own sin.

Pastor: Our sins cry out,

People: "Crucify, crucify!"

Pastor: Our sins cry out,

People: We have betrayed You, with or without the thirty pieces of silver.

Pastor: Our sins cry out,

People: We have denied You, whether or not we have heard the cock crowing.

Pastor: Precious Jesus, we cry out to you,

People: You know the sins we carry, secretly or openly, the way they crush us, the weight of them. We bring these to your cross...

Please use pen and a small piece of paper. Write your name on the paper, and think for a quiet moment about the burden of your own sins. Turn that over to God as you hear the hammer strike the nail. Know that your sins are nailed to the cross of Christ.

Hymn "Once and For All"

Solo, Lezley Hsaio

READING (Jesus is condemned to death.)

John 18:28–19:16

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my

servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.”³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”⁴⁰ They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.³ They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands.⁴ Pilate 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.”⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!”⁶ When 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.”⁷ The 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.”⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ So 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?”¹¹ Jesus 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.”¹² From 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.”¹³ So 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. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵ They 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." ¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN "Go Dark Gethsemane"

LSB 436, Verses 1,2



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

SERMON

"Why Jesus, Why"

Pastor Scott Henze

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

THE FIRST WORD *Luke 23:32–34a* ("Father, forgive them . . .")

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Prince of Peace. When You were mocked, You did not respond with harsh words. When You were tormented, You did not react in anger. When You were nailed to the cross, You prayed for the forgiveness of those who caused You to suffer. Give to us the virtues of gentleness, patience, and a forgiving spirit. Teach us also to love our enemies, and as children of the heavenly Father, to live in Your peace. Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

HYMN **"O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"** Verse, 12 LSB 439

12 I'll think up - on Thy mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;
To do Thy will shall be my sole en -
deav - or Hence - forth for - ev - er.

THE SECOND WORD **Luke 23:35-43** ("Today you will be with Me in paradise.")

³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your infinite mercy, You heard the plea of the dying thief on the cross next to You. We pray that You would open our hearts to welcome those who turn to You, and rejoice in their salvation. When our last hour comes, hold us firm in our faith, and bring us also to live with You in paradise. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HYMN "What Wondrous Love is This"

Bob & Jean Gillis, Duet

THE THIRD WORD *John 19:25–27* ("Here is your son . . . here is your mother.")

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

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, while You suffered the agony of the cross, Your thoughts turned to the welfare of others. Your concern was for Your mother in her sorrow. We pray that You would regard with pity all parents who mourn the death of their children, and all parents who sorrow because their children have gotten into trouble or forsaken their faith. By the power of Your healing, we pray that parents and children know peace and that relationships be restored. Lord in your mercy,

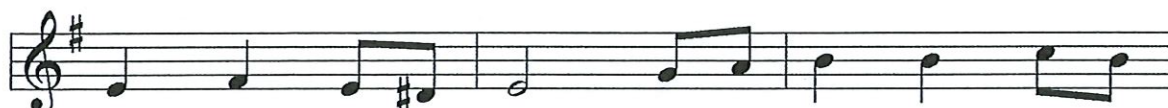
People: Hear our prayer.

HYMN**"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"***LSB 451, Verse 1*

I Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.

THE FOURTH WORD *Matthew 27:45–47* ("My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?")

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah."

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord God, Father of all people and Creator of all that exists, You hold all people in Your power. We pray that You would not forsake the world that Your Son died to redeem. Even though we still see the influence of sin and evil all around us, assure us of Your continued presence in our midst. Help us to know Your love in our lives, so we can show Your presence to others. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Choir Anthem "Oh Sacred Head Now Wounded" *Adult Choir, Recorded live in 2018*

THE FIFTH WORD *John 19:28–29* ("I thirst.")

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.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place. We thirst for the healing that only You can provide. When we find ourselves suffering, give us peace and patience to endure the pain that comes our way. Bring to our minds all that You endured for us, and give us the strength to bear our burdens by the grace of Your holy example. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HYMN**"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

LSB 425, Verses 1,3



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?

THE SIXTH WORD *John 19:29-30* ("It is finished.")

²⁹ A 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. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CREED **Apostles' Creed**

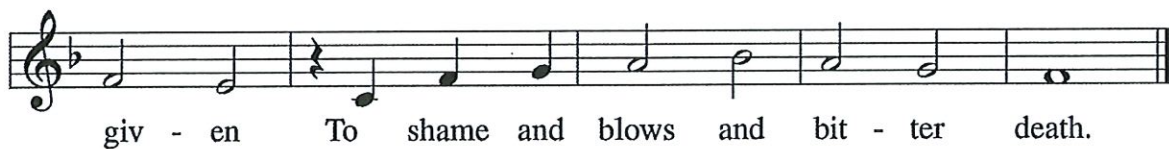
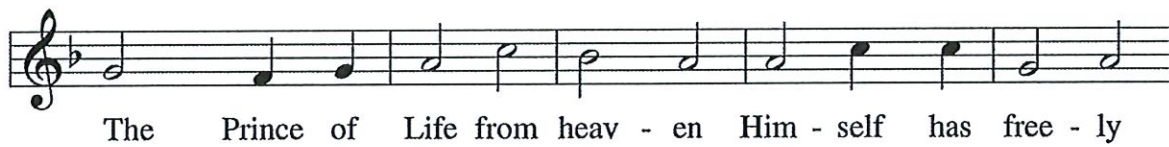
People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your Father for the sake of us and the world. We pray that You would complete in us also everything that You intend for us, so that as children of the heavenly Father, we may live for His glory. Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

HYMN "Upon the Cross Extended" *LSB 453, Verse 1*



THE SEVENTH WORD *Luke 23:44–46; Matthew 27:51*

("Into Your hands I commit My spirit.")

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, as You gave Your life on the cross in our place, You commended Your spirit into the loving hands of Your heavenly Father. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things. When our last hour comes, grant us peace, that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the hands of our heavenly Father. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HYMN "Were You There"

Tracy Bovee, Solo, verse 1

READING**John 19:38–42**

(The burial of Jesus)

38 After 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. 39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now 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. 42 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN**“Were You There”***LSB 456 verses 2 & 3*

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



there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh...
there when they laid Him in 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.



Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

STREPITUS

The loud, sudden sound following the Lord's Prayer is to symbolize the death of Jesus and the closing of the tomb. As we depart from this service in silent meditation, we remember our need for deliverance and forgiveness and the price paid for achieving and fulfilling God's promises. It is finished.

LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken quietly)

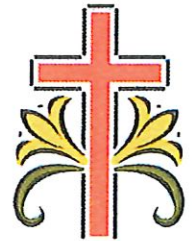
People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

Please depart in silence.

Join us for our Easter Service

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES, SUNDAY, APRIL 4



7:00 AM Outdoor Sunrise Communion Service
8:30 AM Festival Communion Service
11:00 AM Festival Communion Service

Resurrection Run -5K Youth Fundraiser
at 7:45 AM (Runners are sent during the 7:00 AM
Sunrise Service.