



SUBURBAN BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Good Friday Worship Services

April 18, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

Welcome to Good Friday Worship – *On this Good Friday evening our readings take us on a journey to the foot of the cross. Tonight we view the cross through the eyes of John, the beloved disciple. By John's witness, we view Jesus beaten and bloodied. We hear His words of forgiveness and fulfillment. We see Him shedding His blood for the life of the world. As we sing and pray and sit in silence this evening, we ponder Christ's love for us. We marvel at His gifts of forgiveness and salvation, for we have been clothed with the blood of Christ. We will also meet a man who didn't – Barabbas who didn't expect to live.*

Information about the Worship Service

- ✝ *Thank you for joining us in worship today. If you are a guest of Suburban Bethlehem, please complete the green side of the attendance card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate in the back of church.*
- ✝ *Hymns are in the hymnals in the pews.*
- ✝ *There is a nursery available in the Narthex for children if parents would like to use.*

No offering will be gathered today – please place your offering in the plate in the back of church.

Quiet Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation

The Ringing of the Bell

The pastor(s) enter in silence.

Prayer

- P** Lead us dear Lord from the darkness of the garden, to the bare courtyard and its soldiers. Draw us from Pilate's palace and its crowds, through the streets of Jerusalem. Shepherd us to a lonely hillside where you, the Lamb of God, wait for us. We would follow you, Jesus, on this, your day of suffering. Grant us a full measure of your presence, oh Holy Spirit, as we follow the Son of God to His cross this day.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross ✠

Opening Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 st. 1



I Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.

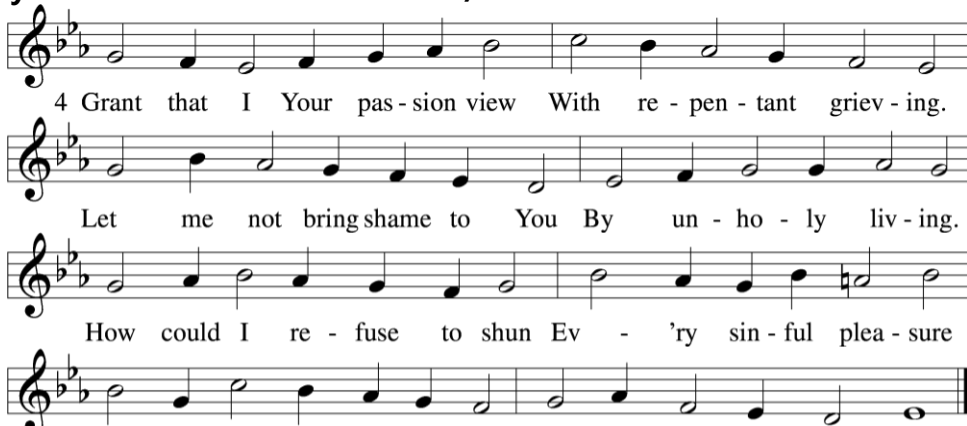
During the Reproaches the cross is carried into the Sanctuary.

- P** Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by?
- C** **Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.**
- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.
- C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 st. 4



4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

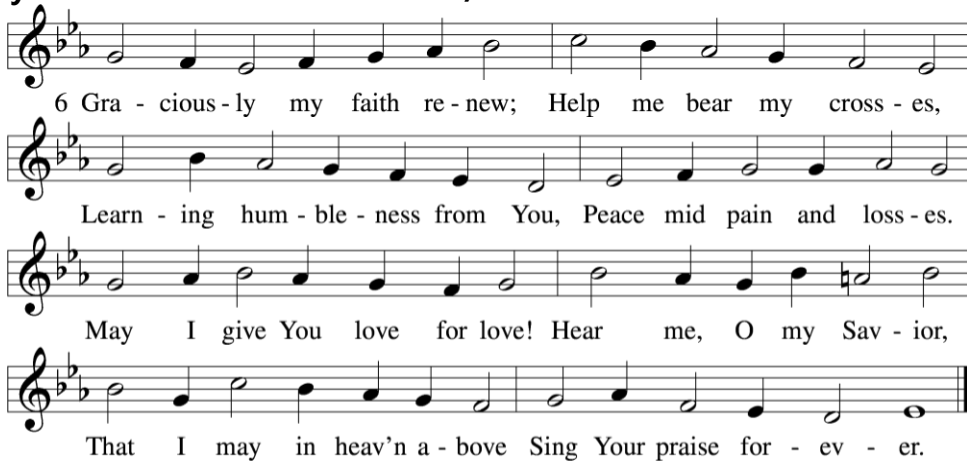
P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed You with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

C **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 st. 6



6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; Help me bear my cross - es,
Learn - ing hum - ble - ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss - es.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,
That I may in heav'n a - bove Sing Your praise for - ev - er.

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

C **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.**

Once the cross has made its way to the front of the Baptism Font, you may come forward and take a turn holding an end of the cross, please come forward during a hymn or between readings.

Silence

Song

In Christ Alone

Redeemed

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

In Christ Alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Tag

No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Our worship tonight traces the path through our Lord's Passion according to St. John. At the conclusion of each reading a candle is extinguished.

Reading

John 18:1-11

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LSB 450 sts. 1, 3-4



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weigh-ed down,
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer-ed Was all for sin - ners' gain;
4 My Shep - herd, now re - ceive me; My Guard-ian, own me Thine.



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;



Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.

Reading

John 18:12-27

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LSB 450 sts. 5-7



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;



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.



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,



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.

Reading

John 18:28-40

²⁸Then 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. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” ³¹Pilate 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.” ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus 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.” ³⁷Then 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.” ³⁸Pilate 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. ³⁹But 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?” ⁴⁰They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

Hymn

***O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken* LSB 439 sts. 1-2, 5**



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
 5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
 The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
 Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

Reading

John 19:1–16a

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.

Song

Wondrous Cross

Redeemed

Reading

John 19:16b–24

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,

Hymn

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

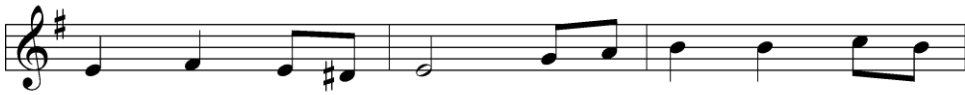
LSB 451 sts. 1-3



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Reading

John 19:25–30

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.

Hymn ***O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*** **LSB 439 sts. 12-13, 15**

12 I'll think up - on Thy mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,
 13 What - e'er of earth - ly good this life may grant me,
 15 And when, dear Lord, be - fore Thy throne in heav - en

That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;
 I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.
 To me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,

To do Thy will shall be my sole en -
 I shall not fear what foes can do to
 Where sweet - est hymns Thy saints for - ev - er

deav - or Hence - forth for - ev - er.
 harm me Nor death a - larm me.
 raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

Reading

John 19:31–42

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."

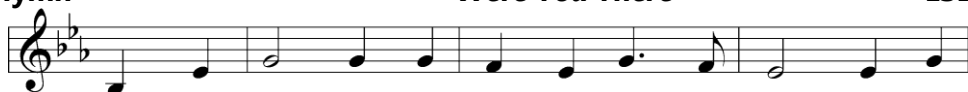
³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing 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.

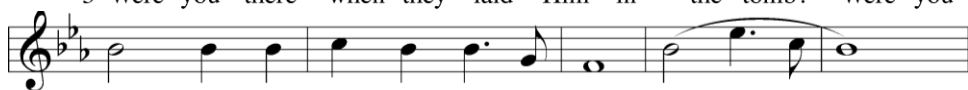
Anthem *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Devotion *"Barabbas Who Didn't Expect to Live"*

Hymn *Were You There* **LSB 456 sts. 1-3**



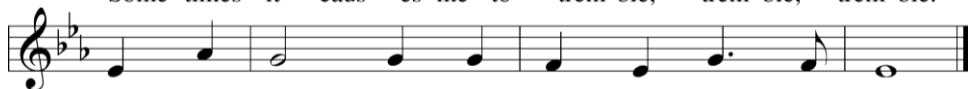
1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
 2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
 3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you



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 ...



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?

Silence

Prayer of the Church

The ancient tradition on Good Friday is to whisper the words of the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

**☩ 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.**

The Christ Candle is removed

The "Strepitus" is heard, indicating the closing of Christ's tomb. After a moment of silence the Christ Candle is returned to the altar.

All will sing "Jesus, Remember Me." Each repetition becomes more distant until, at the end, the soloist alone will sing it.

Hymn

Jesus, Remember Me

LSB 767

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

The omission of the benediction this evening indicates our worship is not yet complete until joined with the celebration of Easter.

At the conclusion of the service you are invited to remain in the sanctuary as long as you would like. You may nail sins or concerns to the cross before you leave.

Worship Leaders

Preacher: Pastor Bill Mueller

Liturgist: Sem. Adam Nieting

Organist: Bob Diss

Acolyte: Tyson Labit

Soloists: Julie Mueller

Violinist: Karlee Walworth

Piano: Josh Walworth

Acknowledgments

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HOLY WEEK *Services*

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18
NOON WORSHIP SERVICE
7:00 PM -TENEBRAE WORSHIP SERVICE

EASTER EVE – APRIL 19
PRAYER VIGIL - THE SANCTUARY AND PASTORS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER FROM 3 PM-5 PM
5:00 PM EASTER VIGIL SERVICE WITH LORD’S SUPPER

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 20
6:53 AM EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE
(BEGINS IN THE CEMETERY, WEATHER PERMITTING)
8:30 AM BLENDED FESTIVE EASTER SERVICE
10:30 AM CONTEMPORARY FESTIVE EASTER SERVICE
LORD’S SUPPER WILL BE CELEBRATED
AT ALL THREE SERVICES
EASTER BREAKFAST SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
FROM 8:00 – 10:45 AM