

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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April 7, 2023 † Good Friday

THE OLD RUGGED, WOODEN CROSS

Since the altar is stripped and the paraments are gone, the wood of many altars, lecterns, and pulpits are fully exposed. Wood reminds you what took place on the tree of the cross, where your Lord once died. Jesus' cross brings peace, forgiveness, and salvation. By it, the lives of Christians are rescued, sweetened, and lightened. We reflect upon these familiar words of "The Old Rugged Cross" penned by American composer George Bennard in 1912:

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

All enter the church in silence.

During the service, we will stand for each prayer and for the latter portion of the Gospel reading. As we will be alternating sitting and standing, if this is uncomfortable for you, please remain seated during those times as needed.

Stand

Opening Versicles

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 2

Psalm 2

- ¹Why do the | nations rage*
and the peoples | plot in vain?
²The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against his anointed, | saying,
³“Let us burst their | bonds apart*
and cast away their | cords from us.”
⁴He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.
⁵Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,
⁶“As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”
⁷I will tell of | the decree:*
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have be- | gotten you.
⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,*
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.
⁹You shall break them with a | rod of iron*
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”
¹⁰Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.
¹¹Serve the |LORD with fear,*
and rejoice with | trembling.
¹²Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly | kindled.*
Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I | be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me
to eat | up my flesh,*
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stum- | ble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart | shall not fear;*
though war arise against me,
yet I will be | confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek | after;*
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his | temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of | trouble;*
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*
I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud;*
be gracious to me and | answer me!

⁸You have said, | “Seek my face.”*

My heart says to you,
“Your face, LORD, | do I seek.”

⁹Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in | anger,*
O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my sal- | vation!

¹⁰For my father and my mother have for- | saken me,*

but the LORD will | take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, | O LORD,*
and lead me on a level path
because of my | enemies.

¹²Give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries;*
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out | violence.

¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness | of the LORD*
in the land of the | living!

¹⁴Wait | for the LORD;*
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait | for the LORD!

Psalm 51

Psalm 51

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my trans- | gressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!

³For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your | judgment.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.

⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and | gladness;*
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*

- and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,*
and sinners will re- | turn to you.
- ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my sal- | vation,*
and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.
- ¹⁵O Lord, open | my lips,*
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.
- ¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would | give it;*
you will not be pleased with a burnt | offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.
- ¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good | pleasure;*
build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;
- ¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt | offerings;*
then bulls will be offered on your | altar.

A candle is extinguished.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 1–3

- 1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.
- 2 How pale Thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.

3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

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.

So they took Jesus,

A candle is extinguished.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 4–7

- 4 My Shepherd, now receive me;
My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
To heav’nly joys above.
- 5 What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.
- 6 My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!

7 Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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Stand

¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

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, 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!”²⁷ Then 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.”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.

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.³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.”³⁷ And 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.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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

A candle is extinguished.

Responsory

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Sit

438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

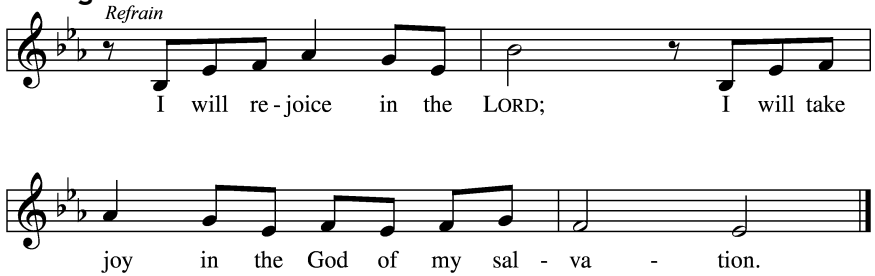
Sermon

Stand

A candle is extinguished.

986 Song of Habakkuk

Refrain



I will re-joyce in the LORD; I will take
joy in the God of my sal - va - tion.

¹ O LORD, I have heard the re- | port of You,*
and Your work, O LORD, | do I fear.

² In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years | make
it known;*
in wrath remember | mercy.

Refrain

³ God came from | Teman,*
and the Holy One from Mount | Paran.

⁴ His splendor covered the | heavens,*
and the earth was full | of His praise.

⁵ His brightness was like the light; rays flashed | from His hand;*
and there He | veiled His power.

⁶ Before Him went | pestilence,*
and plague followed | at His heels.

⁷ He stood and mea- | sured the earth;*
He looked and shook the | nations;

⁸ then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills |
sank low.*
His were the ever- | lasting ways.

Refrain

⁹ You went out for the salvation of Your | people,*
for the salvation of Your a- | nointed.

¹⁰ You crushed the head of the house of the | wicked,*
laying him bare from | thigh to neck.

¹¹ Yet I will rejoice | in the LORD;*
I will take joy in the God of my sal- | vation.

¹² God, the LORD, is my strength; He makes my feet | like the

deer's;*

He makes me tread on my high | places.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Refrain

Text: Habakkuk 3:1-6, 13, 18-19

Tune: Phillip Magness, 1963

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Kneel/Stand

A candle is extinguished.

Prayers

P Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Christ, have mercy.

C Christ, have mercy.

P Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

C 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The final candle is extinguished.

The congregation leaves in silence and minimal light.

Acknowledgments

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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