

**MESSIAH**  
**LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH**  
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS



*Good Friday*  
**Worship and Tenebrae Service**  
**April 3, 2026**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover  
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander  
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan

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# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Good Friday

April 3, 2026 7:00 p.m.

*Please enter and leave the service in silence.*

*The word "Tenebrae" means "darkness." In this service, remembering the seven last words of Jesus spoken from the Cross, the Sanctuary becomes darker and more silent as we approach the moment of Jesus' death for our sins.*

## PRELUDE

"Via Dolorosa (Powerful Path of Jesus),"  
Rose Ann Sochan

## OPENING HYMN

"What Wondrous Love Is This," #177 v. 1-2

Unison



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2. When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink - ing down, When  
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, To  
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, When I was sink - ing  
God and to the Lamb I will sing, To God and to the  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, And when from death I'm

this That caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse  
down Be - neath God's right - eous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown  
Lamb Who is the great "I Am," While mil-lions join the theme,  
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, And thro' e - ter - ni - ty

for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.  
for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.  
I will sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And thro' e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

### **John 19:37-42 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

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

## **THE JESUS PRAYER**

(One of the oldest Christian prayers)

Leader: Let us pray...

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on my soul.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, have mercy on me, a sinner. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me and on all people. Amen.**

## **MESSAGE**

**"The Foolishness of the Cross"**

Pastor Kurt Hoover



# TENEBRAE

Messiah Lutheran Church Sanctuary Choir

Herb Alexander, Director

Rose Ann Sochan, Piano & Organ

Tom Bajek, Violin

Rich Lukes, Cello

Doug Potts, Reader

## **Luke 22:39-53**

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

**“Awake, Alone in Gethsemane,” arr. Mary McDonald**

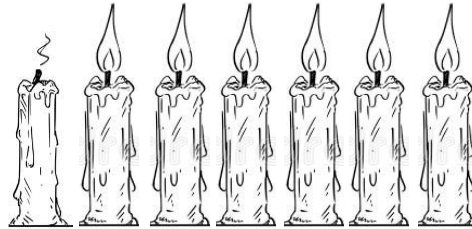
Twilight in Gethsemane, shadows shroud the olive trees,  
Twisting branches, dark'ning paths, on the mountain night falls fast  
Jesus, with treasured friends, comes to pray 'mid changing winds.  
Good and gladsome memories fade with the press of treachery.

Awake, alone in Gethsemane.  
His friends are heavy-eyed. Resting from sorrow, they lie.  
Strong pleas He makes. Not one stays awake.

See, now an angel gives Him aid, strength for bearing all the world's shame.  
Anguished, His prayers ascend to God, while from His brow comes sweat  
like blood.

“Father, let this cup pass by! Not My will, but Yours,” He cries.  
Willing to drink its bitterness, rising to face the traitor's kiss

Awake, alone in Gethsemane.



**Isaiah 53:7**

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

**Mark 15:1-5**

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

"In Pilate's Hall," arr. John Carter

In Pilate's Hall he stands alone, He will not raise his eyes  
The silence settles like a stone, and Pilate wearily sighs.

"Are you the Christ? Are you a King?"

I hear that's what they say."

But Jesus answered not a thing, He only turned away.

In Pilate's hall he stands betrayed by those he called his own  
In tattered robe and crown arrayed, a king without a throne

"Are you the Christ? That's what I've heard.

Are you the promised one?"

But Jesus answered not a word, the deed was nearly done

In Pilate's hall he stands aware of all that lies ahead

The chill of death is in the air, and all his friends have fled

"What have you done? Will you not say?"

The die is cast, my friend."

Then soldiers led our Lord away, to Calvary's bitter end.



### **Mark 15:6-15**

Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" they shouted.

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

“Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs,” arr. Lloyd Larson

Surely He has borne our griefs!

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, carried our sorrows!

Surely He was wounded for us, bruised for our iniquities, for our iniquities!

The chastisement of our peace fell upon Him,  
And with His stripes we are healed, with His stripes we are healed!

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, carried our sorrows!

Surely He was wounded for us, bruised for our iniquities, for our iniquities!

Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
And yet He opened not His mouth, and yet He opened not His mouth!

Surely He has borne our griefs!

Surely He was wounded for us, bruised for our iniquities, for our iniquities!

Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended, that mortal judgment has on  
You descended?

By foes derided, by your own rejected, O most afflicted!

Surely He was wounded for us, bruised for our iniquities, for our iniquities!



### **Psalms 22:6-7, 12-13**

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions, tearing their prey, open their mouths wide against me.

## Matthew 27:27-31

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

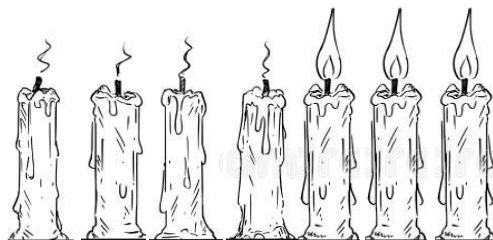
"A Scarlet Robe," arr. Lloyd Larson

A scarlet robe, a crown of thorns  
Roman soldiers knelt, crying out in scorn  
"King of the Jews we hail you now!"  
They spat on him, they beat his brow.

Then they led Him to Golgotha, to be crucified in shame.  
Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrifice, there the Lamb of God was slain.  
Soldiers gambled for his clothing, as He died before their eyes.  
The veil was rent in two, the day became as night  
The earth began to tremble, and then the people cried,  
"Surely this was the Son of God!"  
"Surely this was the Son of God!"

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 to Thee.

Surely this was the Son of God,  
The Son of God,  
The Son of God.



## Luke 23:32-34, 39-43

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "**I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.**"

"Golgotha," arr. Joel Nagy & Russell Nagy

Sharp and piercing were the thorns of the crown as they tore His  
seamless brow

Cruel, relentless were the lashes He bore without a sound  
Cold and stony was the hail of blows on His unprotected face  
That sorrowful, most powerful day of days

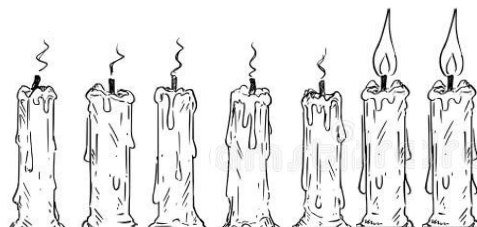
And yet He loved us, in mercy, thought of us, through all His pain  
sustained for us

With love He taught us, how dearly, He'd bought us,  
As He forgave us, laid His life, down for us

Blunt and brutal came the bite of the nails as they hung His  
tortured frame

Dark, foreboding were the insults they hurled to mock His shame,  
Coarse and ragged was His place on the cross where salvation's  
price He paid

That glorious, victorious day of days,  
That glorious, victorious day of days.



### Isaiah 53:3-6

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

### John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "**Dear woman, here is your son,**" and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

"At the Cross," arr. Mary McDonald

Alas, and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head for such a sinner as I?

Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

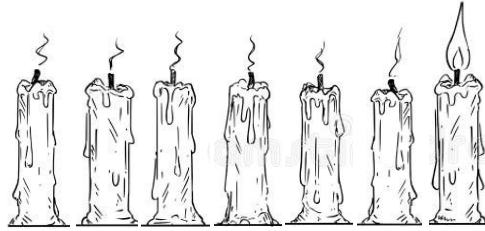
Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,  
When Christ the mighty Maker died, died for human creatures' sin

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
At the cross, at the cross, the cross.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;  
Here Lord I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,  
When Christ the mighty Maker died, for human creatures' sin

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
At the cross, at the cross, at the cross,  
The cross, at the cross, the cross.



### **Mark 15:33-34**

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "***Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?***"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

### **John 19:28-30**

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "***I am thirsty.***" A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "***It is finished.***" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### **Luke 23:46-54**

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "***Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.***" When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

### **John 19:31-34, 36-37**

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

“Thy Will Be Done,” arr. Craig Courtney

Our cup was filled with darkness, our cup was filled with death  
Christ took our cup and drank it, and gave us life, and gave us hope,  
gave us Himself.

My Father let this cup pass from me. My Father let this cup pass  
from me.

Yet not my will, O Lord, yet not my will, O Lord, but Thine be done.

In blackest night we hear Him in dark Gethsemane. Pleading with  
the Father,

For one more way, for one more hope, for one more day

My Father let this cup pass from me. My Father let this cup pass  
from me.

Yet not my will, O Lord, yet not my will, O Lord, but Thine be done.

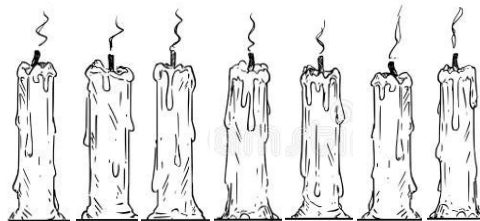
Then they took our Savior, and led Him to a tree and there  
they broke His body

Poured out His life, put Him to death, to rise again!

My Father let this cup pass from me. My Father let this cup pass  
from me.

Yet not my will, O Lord, yet not my will, O Lord, but Thine be done.

Thy will be done. Thy will be done.



*Following the final Choir Anthem, you will hear  
the sound of thunder and a brief vocal.  
The light behind the Cross will darken,  
and the pastor will leave the Sanctuary.*

*The congregation may then exit.  
Please leave in silence.*