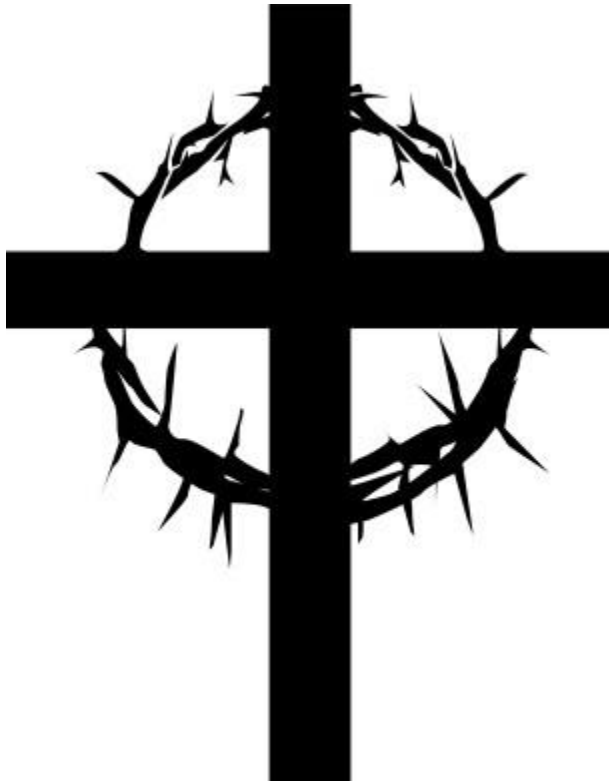


GOOD FRIDAY
TENEBRAE SERVICE



Good Friday
April 3, 2026
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Bold print indicates congregational responses

We gather in silence for this worship service. A Tenebrae service (which means “darkness” or “shadows”) is characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles and lights, symbolic of the gradual flight and denial of the disciples and friends of Jesus. As the events unfold tonight, we are reminded of our own desertion of Jesus and the consequence of separation.

Invocation Prayer

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, now and forever. **Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

(After each bid there will be a short period of silence during which the worshipers may silently offer their own prayer concerning the subject of the bid; this will be followed by the pastor praying a prayer, concluding with:

“We ask this through Christ our Lord.” The congregation responds: **“Amen.”**)

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 Testimony (John 1:6-13)* ✝

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

(The first candle is extinguished)

Music “Poco Adagio from Sonata in A minor, Wq. 132” C. P. E. Bach
Jonah Ahlers, Flute

✝ *The Trial of Judas (John 18:1-9)* ✝

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” ⁵ They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.”

(The second candle is extinguished)

Music

“No Greater Love”

Marti and David Lantz

St. Paul Choir

Sherry Kline, Piano

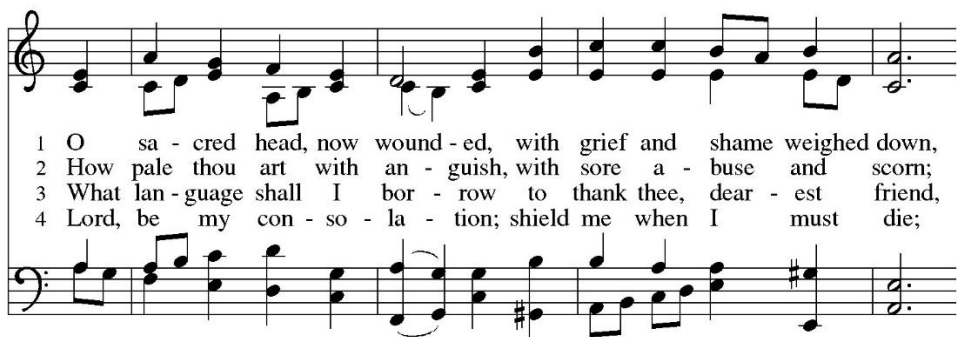
*Alone in the garden, Jesus stayed. While His disciples slept, Jesus prayed.
He was in distress, an agonizing soul. But His purpose was clear for He knew where He must go.
Our Savior would suffer on the cross. What He would endure would be for us.
No greater love will we ever know than that which His sacrifice would show.
His heart was in despair, and as He wept, weighed down by sorrow, His vigil kept. He knew what
had to be, He knew His destiny. But He did not fear, and our Savior did not flee.
Our Savior would suffer on the cross. What He would endure would be for us.
No greater love will we ever know than that which His sacrifice would show.
He prayed to His Father, knowing what would come. “Not my will, but Thy will be done!
Our Savior would suffer on the cross. What He would endure would be for us.
No greater love will we ever know than that which His sacrifice would show.*

✝ The Trial of Peter (John 18:15-18; 25-27) ✝

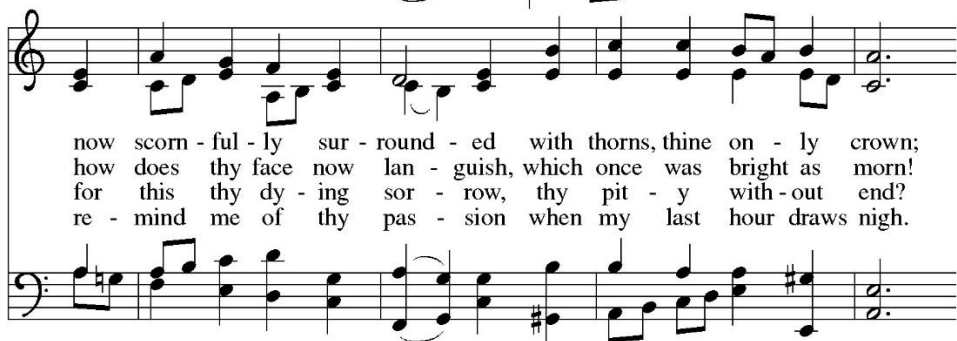
Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶ One of the slaves 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?” ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

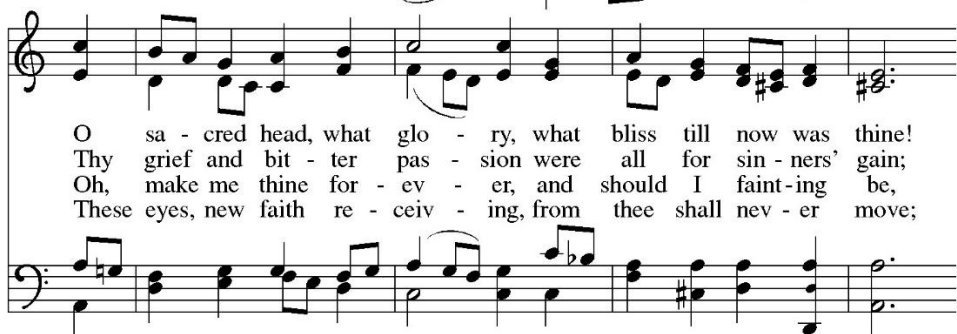
(The third candle is extinguished)



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;

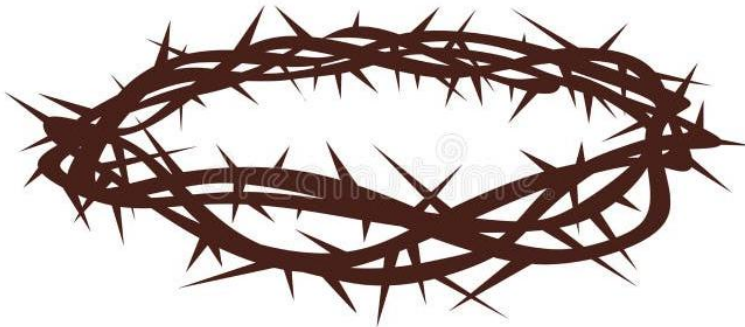


Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

✝ The Trial of the High Priest (John 18:19-25) ✝

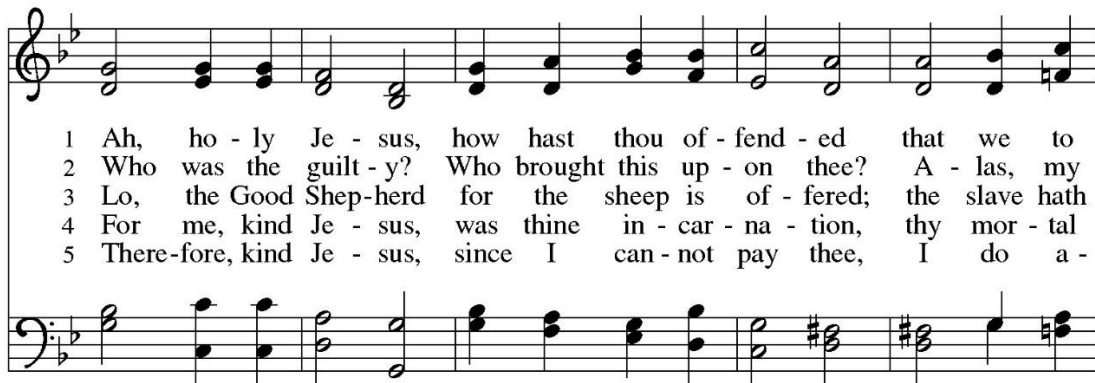
The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³ Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

(The fourth candle is extinguished)

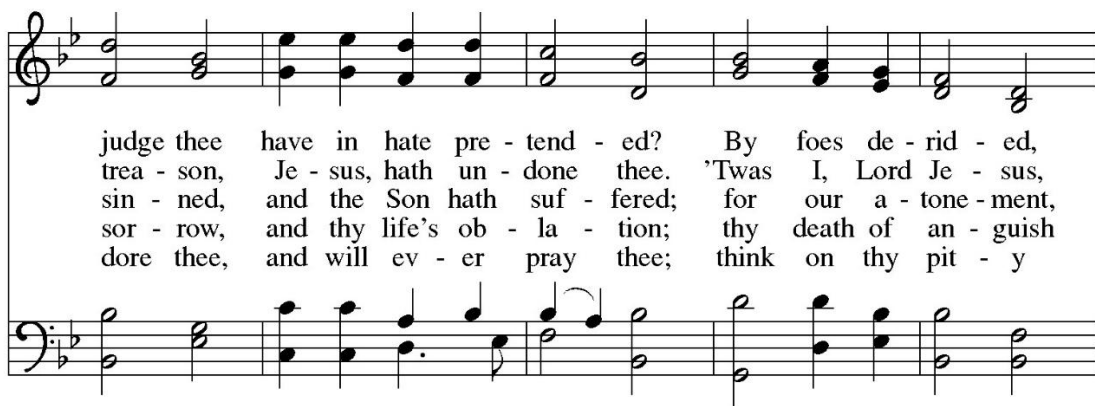


Hymn 349

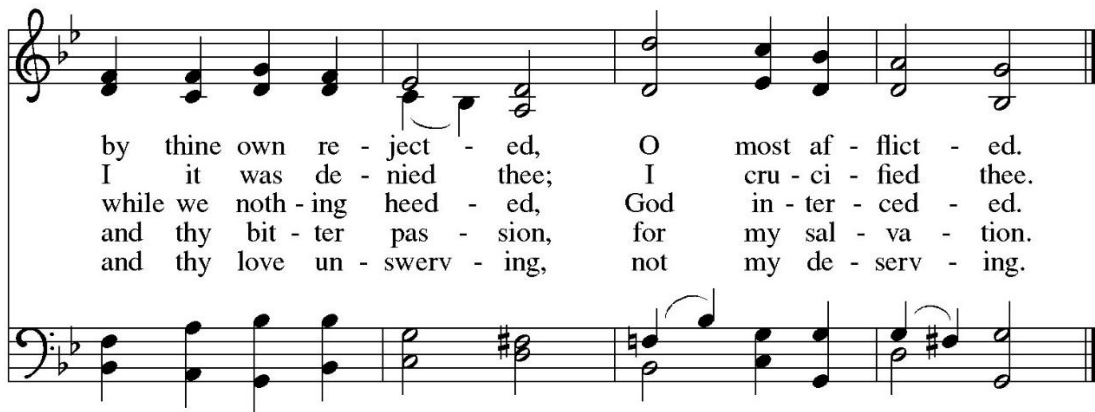
"Ah, Holy Jesus"



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.

✝ *The Trial of Pilate (John 18:33-38)* ✝

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”³⁸ Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

(The fifth candle is extinguished)

Music

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”
Gannon Ziegler, Tenor

arr. by Lloyd Larson

✝ *The Trial of the Crowd (John 18:38-19:16)* ✝

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him.³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”⁴⁰ They shouted in reply,

“Not this man, but Barabbas!”

Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.³ They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face.⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.”⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold, the human!”⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,

“Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.”
Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,

“If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out,

“Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”

Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

Music

“Behold the Holy Lamb of God”

Words by Tom Colvin

St. Paul Choir

Music by Joel Raney

Sherry Kline, Piano

*Behold the holy Lamb of God. Jesu, the one who lifts for us a heavy load.
Holy, Lamb of God, raised high on the cross to bear for us the pain, the pain and loss.
In silent grief and dignity he takes the cross and walks that road to set us free.
Holy, Lamb of God, raised high on the cross to bear for us the pain, the pain and loss.
And there outside the city wall, high on the cross, they nail the one who saves us all.
Holy, Lamb of God, raised high on the cross to bear for us the pain, the pain and loss.
But listen to his heartfelt cry, “My God, my God, will you leave me here to die?”
Jesu, while dying on that tree, forgives our folly and our sins and sets us free.
Holy, Lamb of God, raised high on the cross to bear for us the pain, the pain and loss.*

✝ The Trial of the Cross (John 19:23-30) ✝

²³ When 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. ²⁴ So 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.”

²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

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

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹ A 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. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Sermon – Rev. Robert J. Myallis

(The Light of Christ is walked out of the Sanctuary)

Solo

“Were You There?”

Donna Boland

After the solo, please stand and remain standing until the end of the service.

In silence we listen to the 33 tolls, one for each year of Jesus’ life.

There is no benediction this evening. The Pastor will leave in silence and the congregation is invited to remain as long as you would like for prayer and meditation, after which you are asked to leave in silence.

Easter Sunday

*8:15 am: Worship - St. Paul Sanctuary
Prelude begins at 8:05 am*

*9:30 am: Easter Fellowship for all ages in the Social
Hall with coffee, food and activities.*

*10:45 am: - Worship - St. Paul Sanctuary
Prelude begins at 10:35 am*