



*He was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Good Friday – April 7, 2023
420 Beaver St., PO Box 411
Mars, PA 16046-0411
www.stjohnchurchmars.org
Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*All gather in silence.
You may remain seated for the duration of the service.*

WELCOME and REFLECTION

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day - the triumph of the cross - reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life.

BIDDING PRAYER

Let us pray, for the holy church throughout the world.
Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all in Jesus Christ.
By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world.
Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name,
and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all servants of the church and all the people of God.
Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.
Strengthen and uphold our ministers and lay leaders.
Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church,
and help each of us in our vocations to faithfully do the work to which you have called us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.
Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church.
Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism.
Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who share our faith in Jesus Christ.
Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity.
Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son.
Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith,
and keep us united in the fellowship of love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.
Almighty and eternal God,
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses.
Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own
may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.
Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace
all those who call out to you under different names.
Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses
of the love made known to us in your Son.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

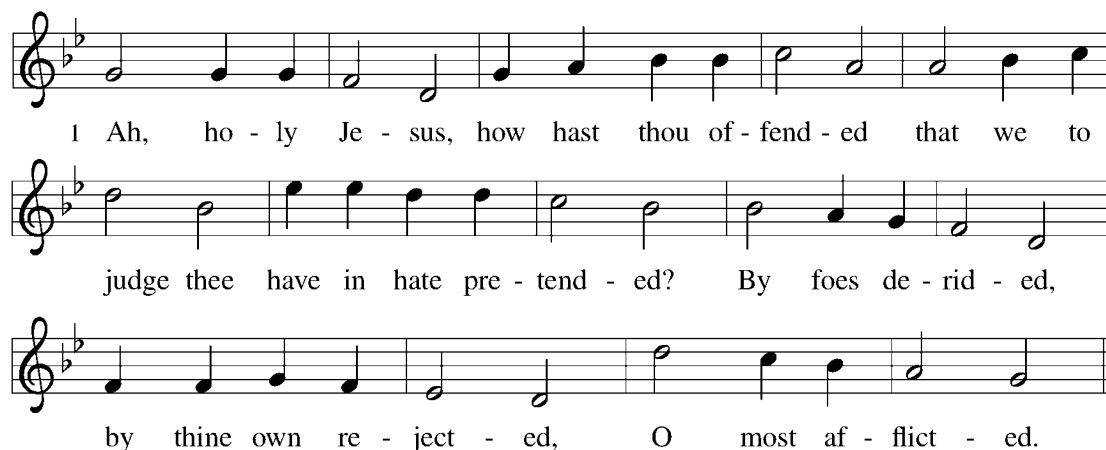
Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.
Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity
so that all may long to know you and find peace in you.
Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace
in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly know you as the one true God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.
Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe.
Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.
Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed.
In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority,
so all may know justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.
Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary
and new courage to those who have lost heart.
Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers,
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,
and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease.
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble,
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG *Ah Holy Jesus* (ELW 349) *verse 1*



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.

THE FIRST READING

John 18:1-11, The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

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. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So 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. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, so often we betray you in the choices that we make; yet you do not wish to lose even one of us. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

HYMN *Ah Holy Jesus* (ELW 349) verse 2

The first candle is extinguished

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?

Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.

'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;

I crucified thee.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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 SECOND READING

John 18:12-14, Jesus Before the High Priest

¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, you went willingly to die for us all even though we deserve to perish.

Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

HYMN *Ah Holy Jesus* (ELW 349) verse 3

The second candle is extinguished

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;

the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;

for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,

God interceded.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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 THIRD READING

John 18:15-18, Peter Denies Jesus

¹⁵Simon 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, ¹⁶but 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. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, **when put to the test we forget who you are; yet you remember us with great love. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.**

HYMN *Ah Holy Jesus (ELW 349) verse 4*

The third candle is extinguished

*For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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 FOURTH READING

John 18:19-24, The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus 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. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, so often we put aside your teachings and act out of anger; yet you respond to us with kindness. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

HYMN *Ah Holy Jesus* (ELW 349) verse 5

The fourth candle is extinguished

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,

I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;

think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,

not my deserving.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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 FIFTH READING

John 18:25-27, Peter Denies Jesus Again

²⁵Now 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." ²⁶One 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?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, even when we cut ourselves off from you, you yearn to hold us tightly.

Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

HYMN *Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (ELW 351) *verse 1*

The fifth candle is extinguished



O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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 SIXTH READING

John 18:28 – 19:16a, Jesus Before Pilate

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate 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?" ³⁶Jesus 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." ³⁷Pilate 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." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But 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?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

(Continued)

^{19:1}Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate 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." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶When 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." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God." ⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on 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." ¹³When 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. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They 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." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, we cried out with the crowd, "Crucify him!" Yet you did not condemn us. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

HYMN *Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (ELW 351) *verse 2*

The sixth candle is extinguished

*How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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 SEVENTH READING

John 19:16b-30, The Crucifixion of Jesus

¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, '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 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. ²⁴So 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."

²⁵And 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. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, **you were hung among criminals, yet you were innocent. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.**

HYMN *Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (ELW 351) verse 3

The seventh candle is extinguished

*What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?*

*Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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 EIGHTH READING

John 19:31-37, Jesus Side is Pierced

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then 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. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, **you suffered so that scriptures might be fulfilled. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.**

HYMN *Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (ELW 351) verse 4

The eighth candle is extinguished

*Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing die safely in thy love.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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 NINTH READING

John 19:38-42, The Burial of Jesus

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, we laid you in a tomb and now we mourn. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

HYMN *Were You There?* (ELW 353) *verse 1*

The ninth candle is extinguished



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?

THE LORD'S PRAYER *whispered*

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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

HYMN *Were You There?* (ELW 353) *verse 2-5*



- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Oh, 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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Meditation in the darkness

***PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

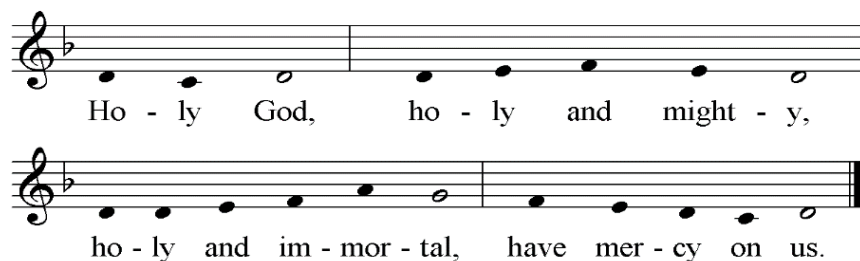
A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward. The following dialogue is sung three times during the procession, the assembly echoing the leader each time. After the cross is placed before the altar, the people sit or kneel as able.



Behold, the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the world. **Oh, come, let us wor - ship him.**

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.



O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you with the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I planted you as my fairest vine, but you have brought forth bitter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

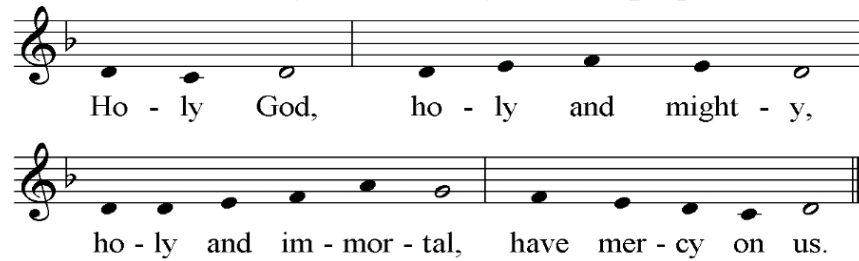
O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.



O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

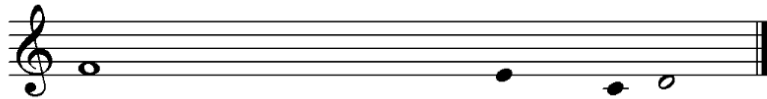
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.
May God be merciful and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.
Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.



By your holy cross you have re deemed the world.

A candle is relit in hope.

All depart in silence; the service continues with the Easter Vigil.

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