

**SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**April 1, 2021**

**Holy Week Service: Light and Darkness**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace**

**Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson**

**OUR VISION**

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION**

**P:** We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** 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, forever and ever.

**C: Amen**

**HYMN: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

Beneath the cross of Jesus / I long to take my stand; / the shadow of a mighty rock / within a weary land, / a home within a wilderness, / a rest upon the way, / from the burning of the noontide heat / and burdens of the day.

I take, O cross, your shadow / for my abiding place; / I ask no other sunshine than / the sunshine of his face; / content to let the world go by, / to know no gain nor loss, / my sinful self my only shame, / my glory all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869. Public Domain.

**MEDITATION: “Crucified”** ..... *Pastor Scott Hackler*

**READING: “The Meal” – Matthew 26:17-29**

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became

greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.” While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Into Your Hands”** . . . . . Dave Seaburg, Accompanist: Gerry Seaburg

**THE LORD’S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: The Lord be with you,

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying; Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Let us pray,

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN: “What Wondrous Love Is This”**

What wondrous love is this, / O my soul, O my soul! / What wondrous love is this, O my soul! / What wondrous love is this / that caused the Lord of bliss / to bear the dreadful curse / for my soul, for my soul, / to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, / sinking down, sinking down, / when I was sinking down, sinking down, / when I was sinking down / beneath God's righteous frown, / Christ laid aside his crown / for my soul, for my soul, / Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

Text: American folk hymn, alt. Public Domain.

### **THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN: “The Arrest” – John 18:1-11**

(Jesus )went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. 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. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then 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. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?" *First candle is extinguished.*

### **HYMN: “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”**

Jesus, I will ponder now / on your holy passion; / let your Spirit now endow / me for meditation. / Grant that I in love and faith / may the image cherish / of your suffering, pain, and death, / that I may not perish.

Make me see your great distress, / anguish, and affliction, / bonds and blows and wretchedness / and your crucifixion; / make me see how scourge and rod, / spear and nails, did wound you, / how you died for those, O God, / who with thorns had crowned you.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt. Public Domain.

### **READING: “The Denial” – John 18:12-27**

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. 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, 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. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." 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. Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. 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. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." 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?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. 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." 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?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. *Second candle is extinguished.*

### **HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

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.

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.

### **READING: “The Trial” – John 18:28-40**

Then 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. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate 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." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" 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?" 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." 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." Pilate 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. 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?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit. *Third candle is extinguished.*

### **HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

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.

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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, c. 1250; tr. Composite. Public Domain.

### **READING: “The Humiliation” – John 19:1-7**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. 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." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" 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." The 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." *Fourth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN: “Ah, Holy Jesus”**

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended / that we to judge thee have in hate pretended? / By foes derided, by thine own rejected, / O most afflicted.

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.

**READING: “The Sentence” – John 19:8-16a**

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate 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?" Jesus 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." From 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." 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. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" 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." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. *Fifth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN: “Ah, Holy Jesus”**

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.

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.

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.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt. Public Domain.

**READING: “The Cross” – John 19:16b-22**

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many 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. Then 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.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." *Sixth candle is extinguished.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Father, Forgive Them”** ..... Ken Carnes

**READING: “His Death” – John 19:23-30**

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. 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."

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. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 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 am thirsty." 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. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. *Seventh candle is extinguished.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "Were You There"** ..... Fred Bornhoeft, piano solo

**PARTING WORDS**

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

**C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

P: Go silently in peace!

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