MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.



Good Friday March 29, 2024

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436 www.messiahoaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900 @MessiahOaklandNJ Sunday Worship 10:00 am

The liturgy begins in silence after all have been seated.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

R A reading from Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— ¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. ^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth: like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniguities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong: because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

R ΗγмΝ

Ah. Holv Jesus

С

ELW #349

Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? Ah. ho - ly that we 1 to Who was the 2 A - las, mv 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, 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, thy mor - tal do L a judge thee have in hate pre-tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed, Je - sus, hath un - done 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus, thee. trea - son, 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 and will ev - er dore thee, pray thee; think on thy pit - y 0 by thine own re - ject ed. most af - flict ed. L it was de - nied thee: Ι cru - ci - fied thee. God in - ter - ced while we noth - ing heed - ed, ed. bit - ter pas - sion, and thy for my sal - va tion. love un - swerv - ing, and thy not my de - serv - ing.

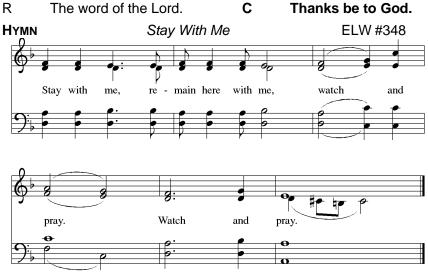
SECOND READING

R A reading from Hebrews 10:16-25

¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



You are invited to join in a meditative worship position during the reading of the Gospel. The lights in the sanctuary will dim as each candle is extinguished until the sanctuary is completely dark. You are invited to join in singing between each of the readings.

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN 18:1-19:42

P The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

READING: John 18: 1-11

Ηγμν

There in God's Garden

¹There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations: Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty. en ELW #342 vs. 1-2 ²Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suff'ring; see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

First candle is extinguished.

READING: John 18:12-27

HYMNThere in God's Garden³Thorns not its own45are tangled in its foliage;reour greed has starved it,heour despite has choked it."CYet, look! it lives!Gits grief has not destroyed itginor fire consumed it.It

ELW #342 vs. 3-4

⁴See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."

Second candle is extinguished.

READING: John 18:28-40

Ηγμν	There in God's G	arden ELW #342 vs. 5-6	
⁵ This is my end	ding,	⁶ All heav'n is singing,	
this my resurrection;		"Thanks to Christ whose	
into your hand	s, Lord,	passion	
I commit my sp	pirit.	offers in mercy	
This have I searched for;		healing, strength, and pardor	n.
now I can poss	sess it.	Peoples and nations,	
This ground is	holy.	take it, take it freely!"	
		Amen! My Master!	

Third candle is extinguished.

READING: John 19:1-7

HYMNO Sacred Head, Now Wounded1O sacred head, now2How pawounded, with grief andanguishshame weighed down,scorn;now scornfully surroundedlanguishwith thorns, thine only crown;bright aO sacred head, what glory,bitter pawhat bliss till now was thine!sinnershYet, though despised andthe trangory, I joy to call thee mine.the dea

aded ELW #351 vs. 1-2 ²How 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: John 19:8-16a

O Sacred Head. Now Wounded ELW #351 vs. 3-4 HYMN ³What language shall I borrow ⁴Lord, be my consolation; to thank thee, dearest friend. shield me when I must die: for this thy dying sorrow, thy remind me of thy passion pity without end? when my last hour draws nigh. Oh, make me thine forever, These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never never move; for all who die outlive my love to thee. believing die safely in thy love

Fifth candle is extinguished.

READING: John 19:16b-22

HYMN Beneath the Cross of Jesus ELW #338 vs 1 ¹Beneath 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.

Sixth candle is extinguished.

READING: John 19:23-25a

HYMN Beneath the Cross of Jesus

²Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness. ELW #338 vs 2-3

³I 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.

Seventh candle is extinguished.

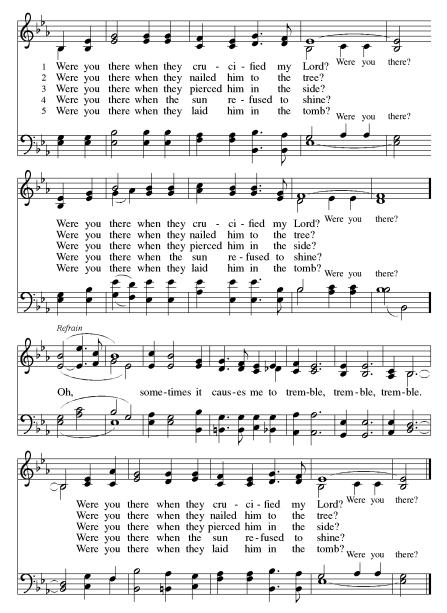
READING: John 19:25b-41

Paschal candle is removed.

The congregation will observe a moment of silence in the darkness of the sanctuary. The Hymn of the Day will begin after the Paschal candle and the lights of the sanctuary return.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Were You There



BIDDING PRAYER

The assembly may kneel or sit.

A Let us pray, siblings, for the holy church throughout the world.

P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations 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.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for Elizabeth, Yehiel, and Tracie, our bishops, for Courtney, our pastor, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

P 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 the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for our siblings who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

P 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.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

P 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.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

P Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to interreligious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

P 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 acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for God's creation.

P 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.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

A Let us pray for those in need.

P 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.

C Amen.

A Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

All pray the Lord's Prayer in whatever language or translation is most familiar.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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 recited as the procession begins

P Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C Oh, come, let us worship him.

The dialogue is recited a second time at the midpoint of the procession.

P Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C Oh, come, let us worship him.

The dialogue is recited a third time at the end of the procession.

P Behold the life-giving cross,

on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

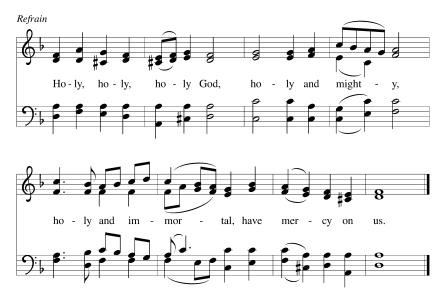
C Oh, come, let us worship him.

THE SOLEMN REPROACHES

During the chant, worshipers may come to the cross to make a sign of reverence. Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, touching it or lighting a taper and placing it in the sand on either side of the cross. If you are worshipping online, we invite you to reverence the cross in whatever way is meaningful to you.

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for 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.

C Sung Refrain, See next page



P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for 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.

C Sung Refrain

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for 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 by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C Sung Refrain

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you 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.

C Sung Refrain

P 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.

C Sung Refrain

P 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.

C Sung Refrain

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for 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.

C Sung Refrain

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for 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.

C Sung Refrain

P 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.

C Sung Refrain

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for 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.

C Sung Refrain

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I came to you in the least of your siblings, 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.

C Sung Refrain

After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.

- P We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- C By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- P Almighty God, bless you, keep you, and grant you peaceC Amen

P You may leave quietly or stay awhile to pray. When you go, go in peace.

All depart in silence. If they have not done so earlier, worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart. This service concludes on Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday, March 31 10:00 am Worship Service

TODAY'S MINISTERS: PASTOR: Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bob Luderer VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce/Nick DeRoda ASSISTING MINISTER/LAY READER: Valerie Nicolosi USHER: Ron Rubner GREETER: Brigitte Albrecht ALTAR GUILD: Please volunteer COORDINATING COUNCILLOR: Ron Rubner COUNTERS: Eleanore Orman and Ron Rubner

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