

# **St John's Lutheran Church**

4842 Nicollet Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419  
www.stjohnsmpls.org

*Fueled by Christ's redeeming love,  
St. John's is called into a joyful life of  
welcoming hospitality, grace-filled  
worship, transformational relationships,  
and Gospel-driven service in the world.  
St. John's is an RIC congregation.*

*A vibrant community living faith boldly through Welcoming, Worshiping, Healing, and Serving*

## SERVICE OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS

### Good Friday

March 29, 2024

---

*In the Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") service presented here, the extinguishing of candles and stripping of the altar have been placed within the reading of the Passion according to Mark, the gospel narrative for the day.*

*Rather than "mourning" the dying or dead Jesus on Good Friday, the cross is acclaimed as the sign of the world's redemption. With the procession of the cross, we offer honor and reverence to the One who, lifted up from the earth, draws all people to himself. Already on Good Friday, the church celebrates the mystery of the dying and rising of Jesus the Christ as the central event of our salvation.*

---

### Gathering in Silence

*Congregation stand*

### OPENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Son of God, your suffering for our sin is great. We offer you all that we have and all that we are. Restore us as we are reminded that we are redeemed because of all you have done. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

**ELW 345**

*Sit*

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

*The assembly kneels or sits. The assisting minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). Silence for prayer follows each bid. A bell will toll for silence. The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence.*

A: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

A: Let us pray for *Elizabeth and Ann* our bishops, for *Mark* our pastor, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

A: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

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

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

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

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

P: 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.**

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

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

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

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

A: Let us pray for those in need.

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**



## **Mark 15:29-32**

<sup>29</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

<sup>31</sup>In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

*Fourth candles are extinguished.*

**Hymn**

*Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless*

**ELW 357** (*no amen*)

## **Mark 15:33-36**

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

<sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

*Fifth candles are extinguished.*

**Hymn**

*Were You There*

**ELW 353**, vv. 1, 2, 3

## **Mark 15:37-39**

<sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

*Sixth candles are extinguished.*

**Hymn**

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

**ELW 351** - vv. 4, 5

**Meditation**

*Silence for reflection follows.*

## READING

Psalm 22:1-2, 14-19

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.

<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;  
<sup>15</sup>my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>For dogs are all around me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled;

<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

<sup>18</sup>they divide my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

*A moment of silence*

## PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

P: We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**C: in whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may remember with joy the mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please stand, turn, and face the cross.*

*The following dialogue is spoken three times.*

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

*After each iteration of dialogue, a bell will toll for silence.*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

*The flame from the Christ Candle is taken onto a candlelighter, then the Christ candle is extinguished.*

*As the life of Christ is extinguished, the light of the Christ Candle is put out.*

*The Light of Christ exits and eternal flame is extinguished.*

*Bell will toll for silent prayer.*

*The room is made nearly completely dark as though we are in the tomb with Christ.*

*The Light of Christ returns and the Christ candle is relit.*

*We remain in silent darkness for some time.*

*When the lights are turned on the service has ended.*

*Please remain silent until you have reached your vehicles.*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister

*Mark Tiede*

Organist/Minister of Music

*Peder Flaten*

Lectors

*Edith Bobardt*

*Anne Nervig*

*Mark Nervig*

*Ann Paulson*

Lighting Assistant

*Samuel Nervig*

Chancel Attendants

*Edith Bobardt*

*Deborah Dunham*

*Lori Johnson*

*Beth McAllister*

*Sharon Koschak*

A/V Lead

*Matthew Tiede*



## EASTER MORNING, MARCH 31

### **Easter Breakfast 8—9:30 a.m.**

*Pancakes, fruit, sausages, juice, milk, coffee served*

*Free will offering supports the ministry of St. John's Chi Rho Center*

### **Easter Egg Hunt 9:15** (hosted by Cross+Generational Team)

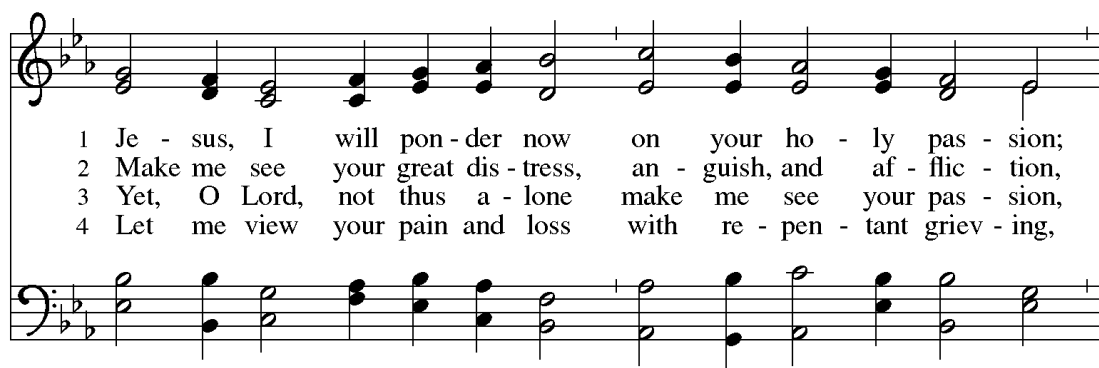
*Children ages 2-10 welcome; meet in entrance by church office*

### **Festival Worship at 10 a.m.**

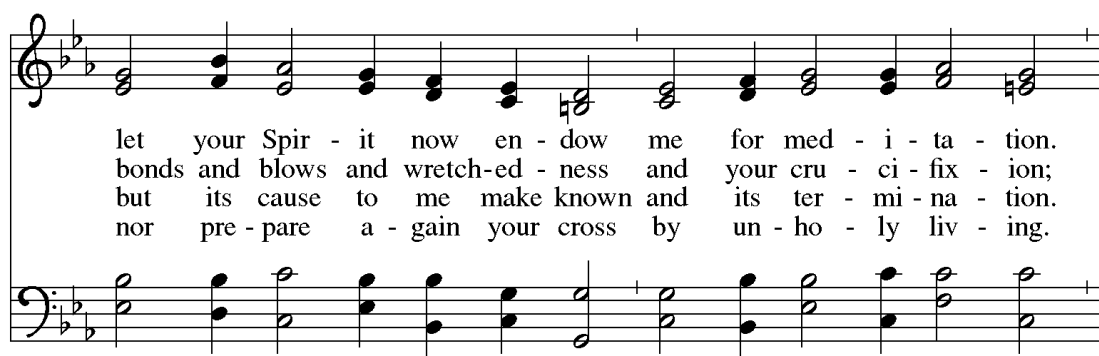
*With organ, brass and choir, we sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion.*



## Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



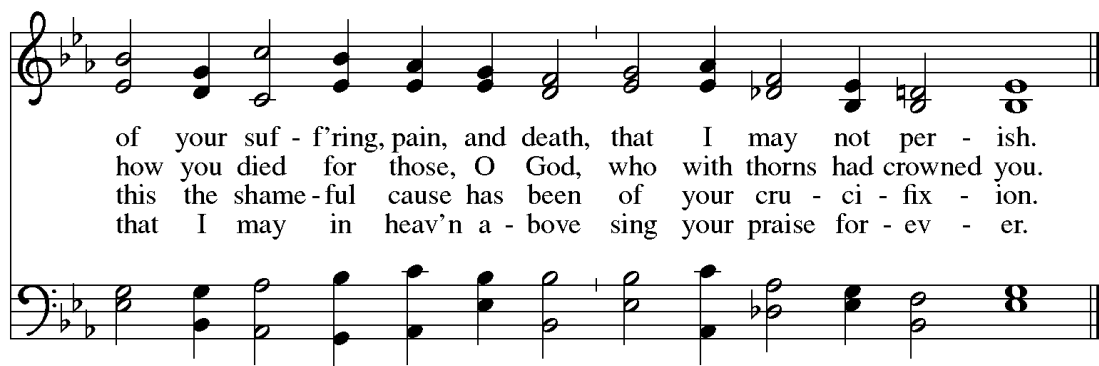
1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;  
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,  
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,  
4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.  
bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;  
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.  
nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish  
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,  
For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;  
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.  
how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.  
this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.  
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

## O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



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.



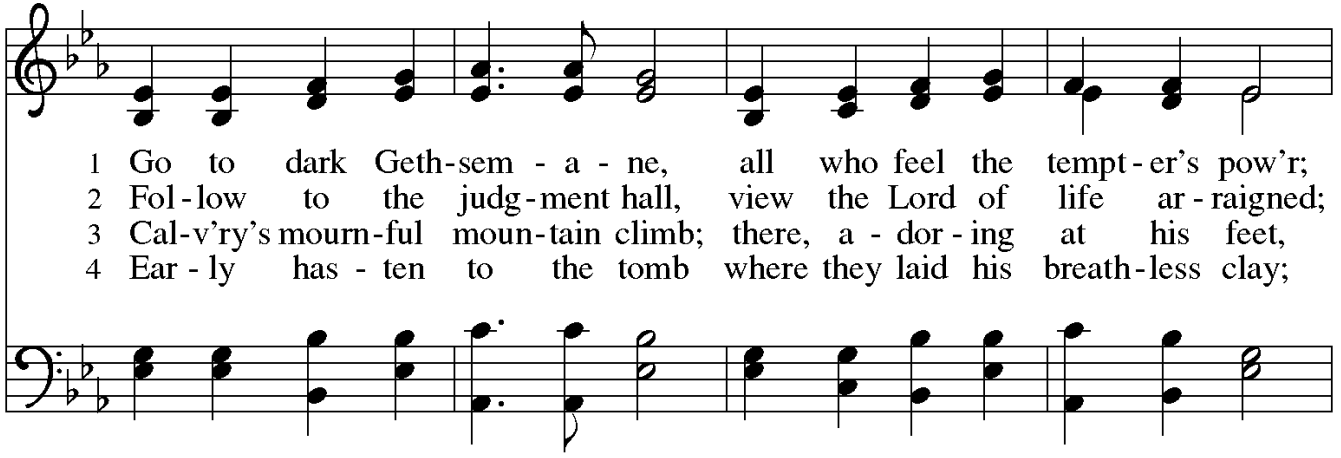
O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



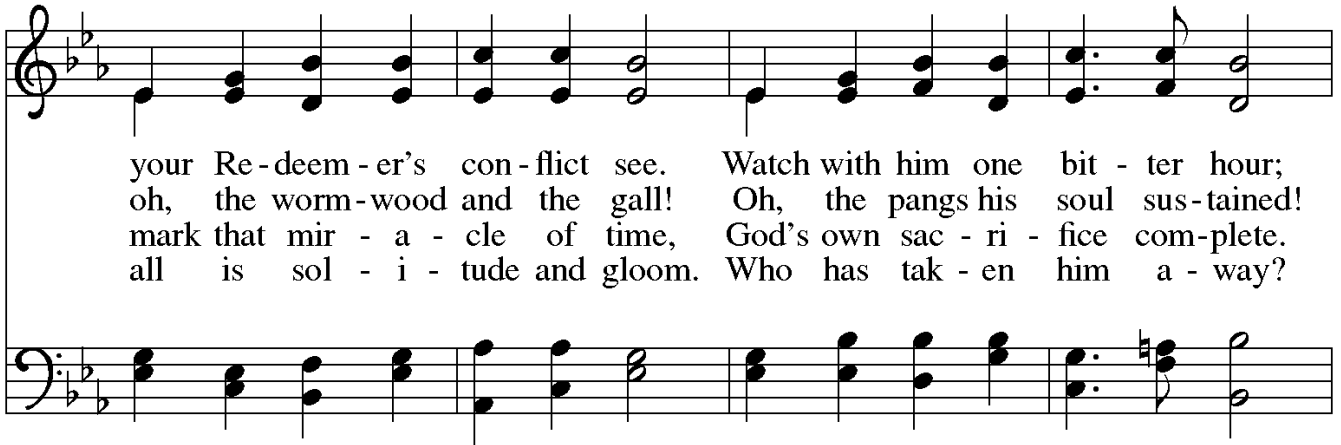
Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.



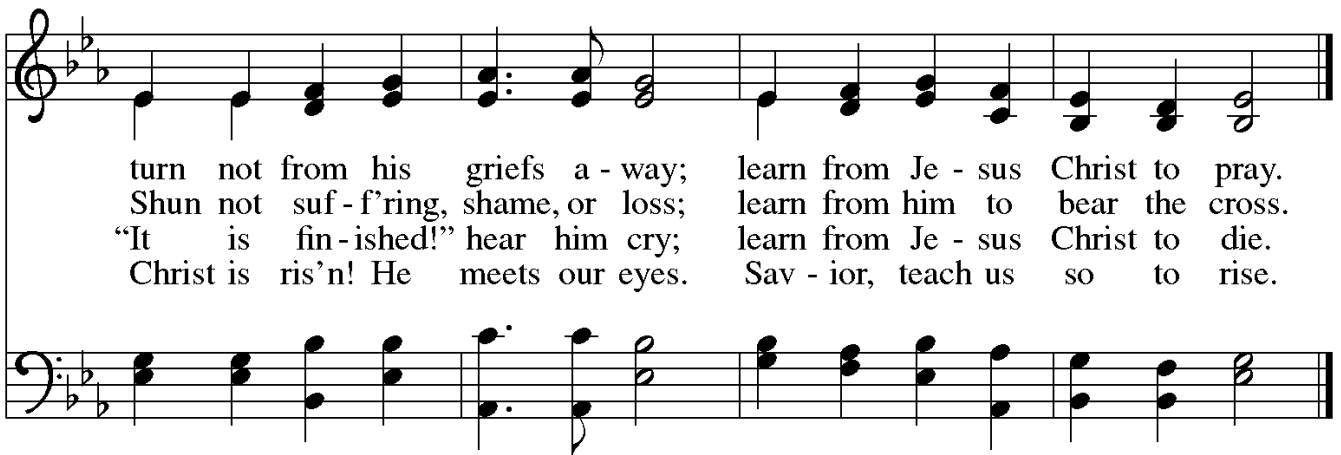
# Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;

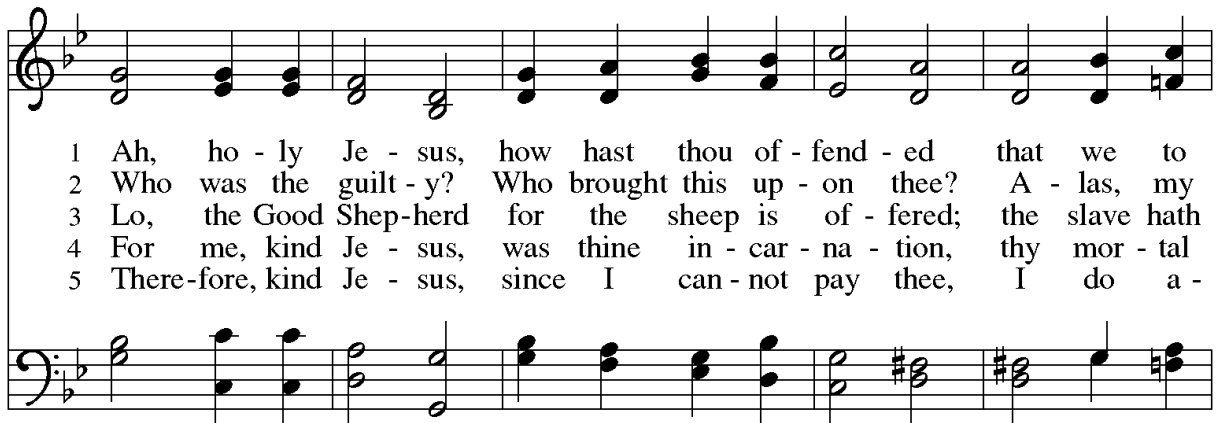


your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!  
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.  
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?




turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

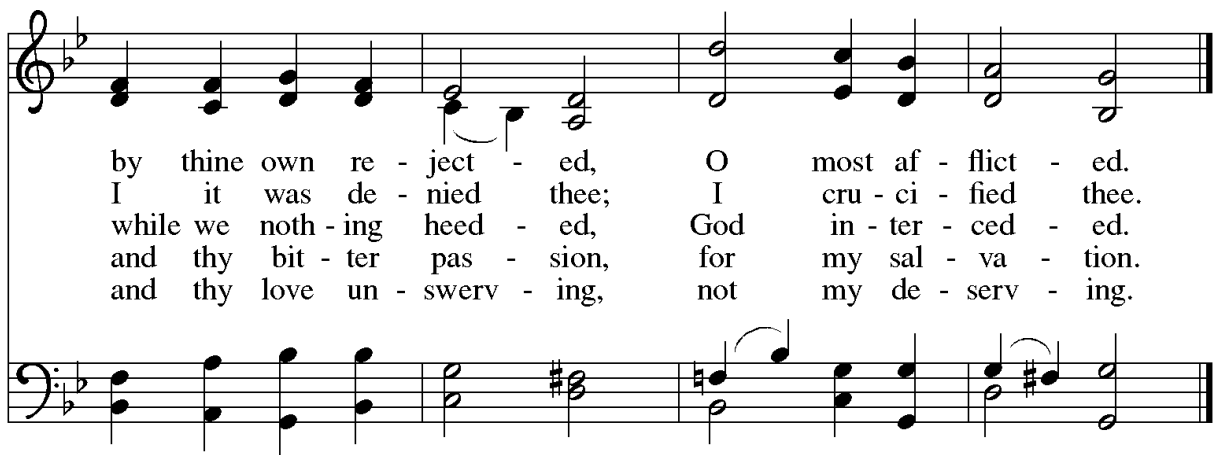
# Ah, Holy Jesus



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 -

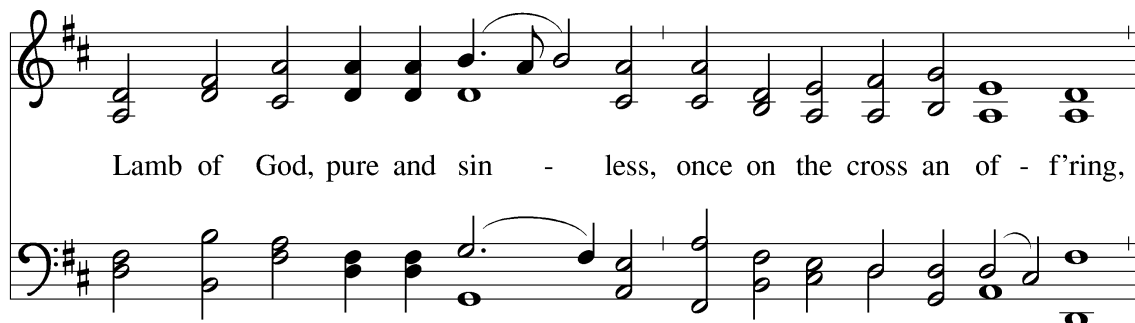


judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
 dore thee, and will ev - er 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.

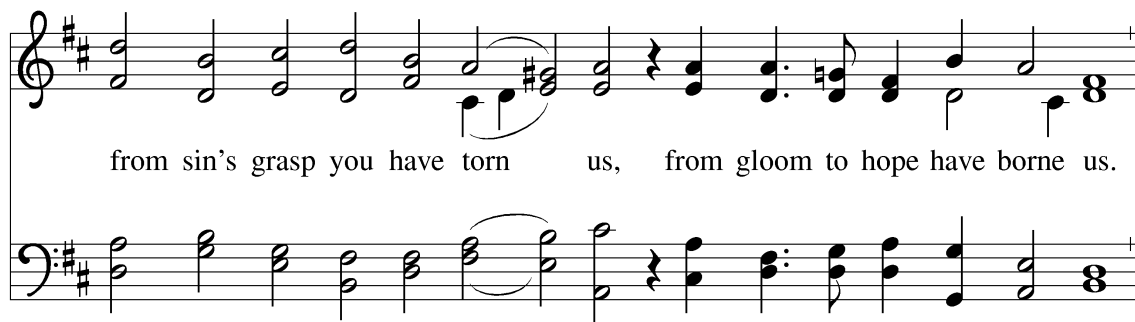
# Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless



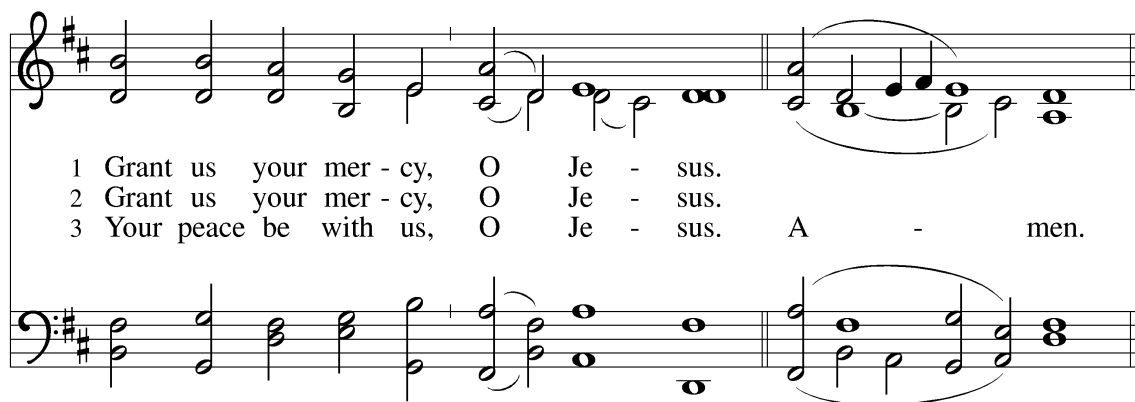
Lamb of God, pure and sin - less, once on the cross an of - f'ring,



pa - tient, low - ly, guilt - less, for - sak - en in your suf - f'ring:



from sin's grasp you have torn us, from gloom to hope have borne us.



1 Grant us your mer - cy, O Je - sus.  
2 Grant us your mer - cy, O Je - sus.  
3 Your peace be with us, O Je - sus. A - men.

# Were You There

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

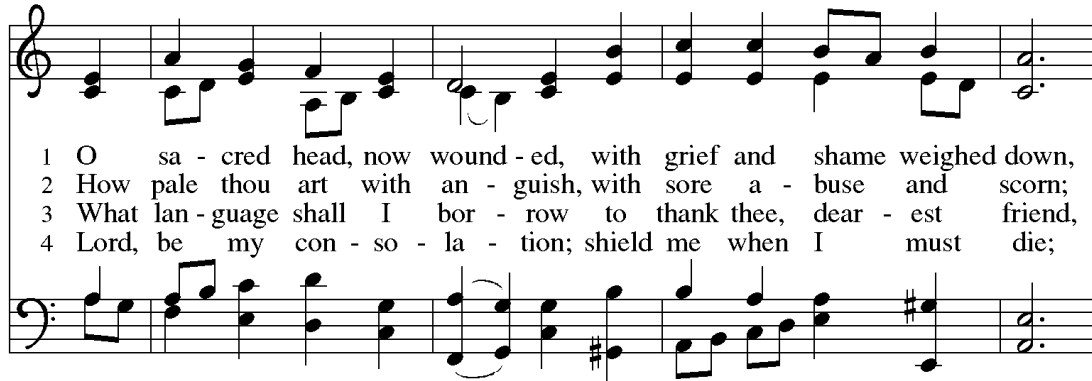
Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*

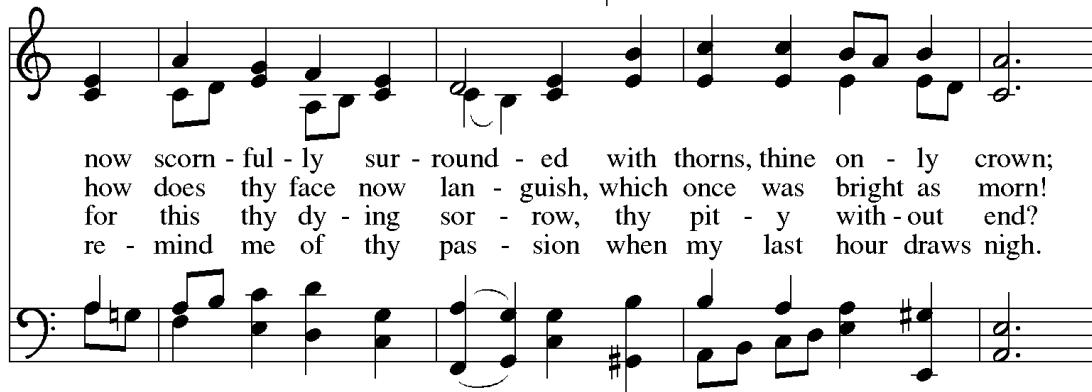
Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

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

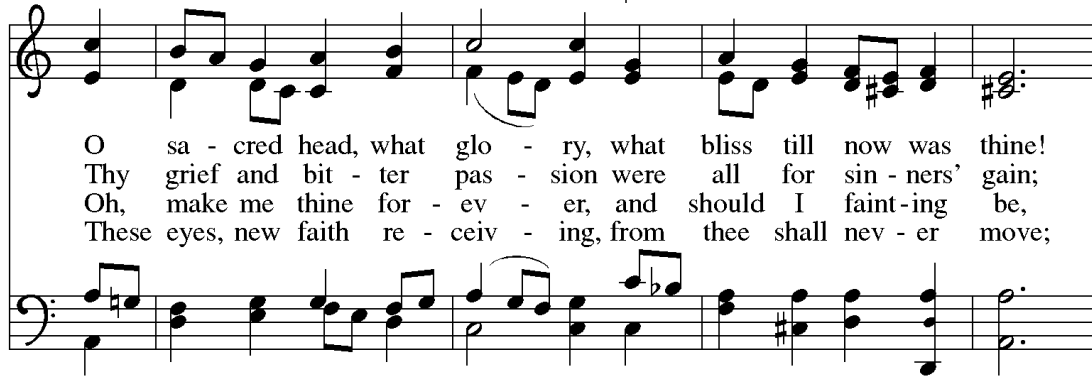
# O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



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.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).**

**Our Mission:**

Fueled by Christ's redeeming love, St. John's is called into a joyful life of welcoming hospitality, grace-filled worship, transformational relationships, and Gospel-driven service in the world.

**Our Core Values:**

*Welcoming*

Celebrating and caring for all people. Our doors are open.  
You belong. Come as you are.

*Worshiping*

Gathering together to joyfully thank God in prayer and praise for Jesus, who calls us, centers us, and sends us into the world.

*Healing*

Reflecting God's unconditional grace and love by walking together through the joys and pains of life.

*Serving*

Gratefully responding to the needs of the world with the abilities God has gifted us.

**Our Vision for the Future:**

A vibrant community living faith boldly