ASCENSION † LUTHERAN † CHURCH
Littleton, Colorado

THE LITURGY for GOOD FRIDAY

The Stations of the Cross

April 19, 2019 - 7 p.m.
He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12, ESV
Preludes

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” (Organ) M. Burkhardt
“O Sacred Head Now Wounded” (Piano) arr. Mark Hayes
Diana Gaide, pianist
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (Organ) arr. Diane Bish

The Pastoral Greeting

Pastor John Larson

The Tolling of the Bell

Congregation, please stand.

Opening Hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LSB 425
Verses 1, 3-4

Invocation

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People Amen.

Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 14-18

Pastor My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
People Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
Pastor All who see me mock me;
People they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
Pastor "He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver him;
People let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!"
Pastor I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;
People my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;
Pastor my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
People and my tongue sticks to my jaws; You lay me in the dust of death.
Pastor For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;
People they have pierced my hands and feet ---
Pastor I can count all my bones---they stare and gloat over me;
People they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
The Passion 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.  

What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love for Thee.

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor  Let us pray.  

Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and 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.

People  

Amen.

Congregation, please sit.

( Jesus prays The Father’s Will on the Mount of Olives. )

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Anthem  “Thy Will Be Done”  
Craig Courtney  
Ascension Chorale

Exodus 12:1-13  
(The Passover. )

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of
them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Sermon
“Christ’s Cleansing Blood”
Pastor John Larson
Text: Exodus 12:1-13

The Hymn
“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgement hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calvary’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete,
“It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

THE FIRST STATION
Our Lord Is Condemned

Pastor We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
People Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.


Elder Forcibly, after sentence, he was taken. Which of his contemporaries was concerned at his having been cut off from the land of the living, at his having been struck dead for his people’s rebellion?

Pastor God spared not his only Son.
People But delivered him up for us all. O innocent Jesus, it was not Pilate, but my own sins, which condemned you to die. Grant that I bear in mind that my sins were the deceitful witnesses; my sins were the lies; my sins were the false testimony that caused your receiving the sentence of death. May I learn to hate those sins which caused your death. Amen.

The Hymn “The Lamb” 
LSB 547

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where’s the sacrifice? Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

REFRAIN Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

THE SECOND STATION

Our Lord Receives His Cross

Pastor We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
People Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.

Lection: John 19:16, 17

Elder Ill treated and afflicted, he never opened his mouth, like a lamb led to the slaughterhouse; like a sheep before its shearers, he never opened his mouth.

Pastor The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
People For the wickedness of his people, God has given his Son. O Blessed Jesus, who for us and for our salvation bore the weight of our sins upon your back, grant us by the virtue of your cross and bitter passion, to embrace all the trials of this earthly pilgrimage, and to take up our cross daily and follow you. Amen.

The Hymn “The Lamb” 
LSB 547

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering, The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heaven His praise to sing.

REFRAIN Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!
Pastor    We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
People   Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.

Lection:  Luke 23:26
Elder    By his knowledge, the upright One, my servant will justify many by taking their guilt.
Pastor   He who takes up his cross and follows me:
People   He is my disciple indeed. O Lord Jesus! You shared the cross with Simon. Should I not also bear the cross which you have placed on me? May it be my privilege to bear my cross; may I glory in nothing else; by it may the world be crucified unto me, and I unto the world; may I rejoice if I be counted worthy to suffer for your name's sake. Amen.

The Hymn  “The Lamb”  LSB 547
The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill.
So still, His will on our behalf the Law to fill.

REFRAIN    Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

Pastor    We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
People   Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.

Elder    Just as many people were aghast at him -- he was so inhumanly disfigured that he no longer looked like a man -- so many nations will be astonished and kings will bow before him, seeing what had never been told them, learning what they had not heard before.
Pastor    They that sow in tears:
People   Shall reap in joy. O Lord Jesus, we mourn and will mourn, both for you and for ourselves; for your sufferings and for our sins which caused them. Teach us so to mourn that we may be comforted, and
escape those dreadful judgments prepared for all those who reject or neglect you. Amen.

The Hymn  “The Lamb”  
*LSB 547*

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.

**REFRAIN**  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

### THE FIFTH STATION

**Our Lord Is Stripped of His Garments**

Pastor  We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
People  Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.

**Lection:**  John 19:23, 24

Elder  We had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way, and God brought the acts of rebellion of all of us to bear on him.

Pastor  They divided my garments among them:  
People  And for my vesture they did cast lots. O innocent Jesus! You suffered shame for our most shameful deeds. Help us to put off every attachment to earthly things, that each may give you all our love, who art worthy of the love of all. Amen.  
Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

**The Hymn**  “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”  
*LSB 440*

Grant that I Your passion view with repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to You by unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun ev’ry sinful pleasure.  
Since for me God’s only Son suffered without measure?

### THE SIXTH STATION

**Our Lord Is Nailed to the Cross**

Pastor  We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
People  Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.

**Lection:**  Mark 15:22-25, 33

**The Anthem**  “Lamb of God”  
arr. Melius Christiansen  
The Ascension Chorale
The Seventh Station

Our Lord Dies Upon the Cross

Pastor: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
People: Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.

Lection: John 19:28-30

Elder: He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole.

The Hymn: “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” *LSB 451*

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!
‘Tis the Christ by man rejected; Yes, my soul, ‘tis He, ‘tis He!
’Tis the long expected prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: ’Tis a true and faithful Word.
Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress:
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.

The Eighth Station

Jesus is Removed From the Cross and Laid in the Sepulcher

Pastor: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
People: Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.

Lection: Mark 15:42-46a

The Hymn: “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” *LSB 447*

Verses 16, 19, 21

Jesus, all our ransom paid, all Your Father’s will obeyed;
By Your suff’rings perfect made: hear us, holy Jesus.
Jesus, all Your labor vast, all Your woe and conflict past.
Yielding up Your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.
May Your life and death supply grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high: hear us, holy Jesus.
Silence for Reflection and Self-examination

Pastor O Lord Jesus, who died for me on the cross, in your death is all my hope. Be merciful to me, and to all your faithful people. Grant that I may live only unto you, that in the hour of my death I may not fall from you, but ever hold fast to your cross, receiving the crown of glory which you have bought for all with your precious blood.

People Amen.

The Act of Contrition

Pastor God of infinite mercy!

People I am heartily sorry that I have ever sinned against you. I love You with my whole heart; may I never again offend you. May I love You without ceasing, and delight in all things to do Your holy will. Amen.

The Absolution

The Lord's Prayer (Prayer to be whispered)

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 STREPITUS composed by Tchaikovsky and Thomas W. Zehnder

The Strepitus (Latin for "great noise"), symbolizes the earthquake in great darkness that followed Christ's death. During the mournful music and sounds of wind and earthquake, the Christ Candle is carried out the center aisle, symbolizing the death of Jesus for our sins. However, it is not snuffed out as were the other candles, but after a moment, is returned again by the center aisle to strains of "I Know that My Redeemer Lives." This action symbolizes the hope of the resurrection we have in Jesus Christ on the third day.

Out of respect for our Lord's sacrifice and the solemnity of the occasion, the congregation is asked to leave in silence until reaching your cars.
“Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Acts 10:43
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
The Rev. John R. Larson, Pastor

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
Michael Zehnder

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
Diana Gaide

ELDER
Bill Redden

CHOIR
Ascension Chorale

CRUCIFER
Member of the Congregation

ACOLYTE
Espen Erling

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