

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*April 3, 2026*

7:00 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



**THE PRICE OF SIN!**

**AS WE GATHER**

As we gather for worship, we continue the service begun last night with Holy Thursday. Following Jesus' celebration of Passover, He was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. From there, our Savior fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah's Suffering Servant. "He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus willingly subjected Himself to abuse, ridicule, mocking, flogging, and finally death. He died the death we deserve, so that just as He lives we shall live also.

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 the true and faithful Word. (LSB 451:1)



## The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

*Congregation, please sit.*



## 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.**

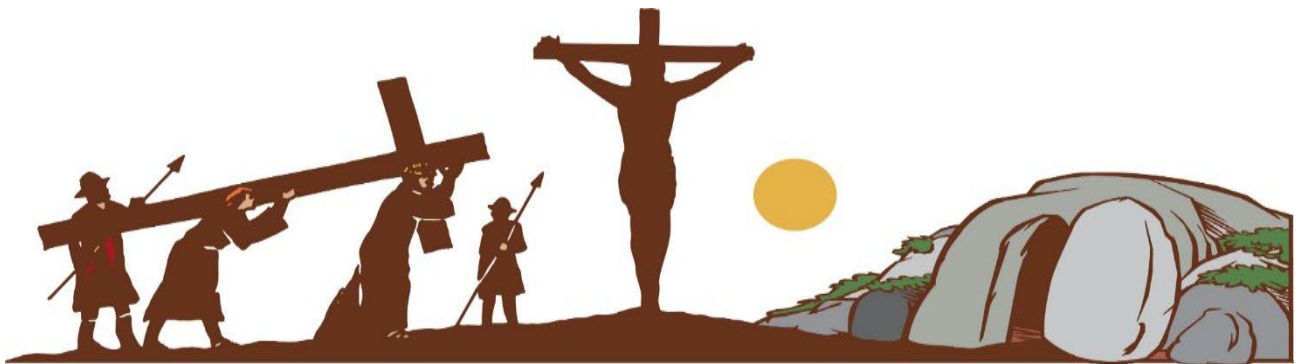
People **O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us!**

**O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us!**

**O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us thy peace! Amen!**

Lamb of God, for sin - ners giv - en, In Your nail-pierced  
 hands is balm. Lamb of God, for sin - ners riv - en,  
 In Your cross is peace and calm. Let this proc - la -  
 ma - tion rise: "I am bap - tized in - to Christ,"  
 Is my ward and my pro - tec - tion,  
 And my death and res - ur - rec - tion.

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# STATIONS *of the* CROSS

**Luke 22:39-44**

(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.

**HYMN**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB 425

**SERMON**

“Powerful Words”

Pastor John Larson

Text: Luke 23:44-56

**THE HYMN**

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”  
(Verses 1-2)

LSB 436



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

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## 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.**

**Lection**

Luke 23:13-25

**Reader**

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”  
(Verse 1)**

LSB 547

1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
*Refrain*  
Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His  
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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## 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.**

**Lecton** John 19:16, 17

**Reader** 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.

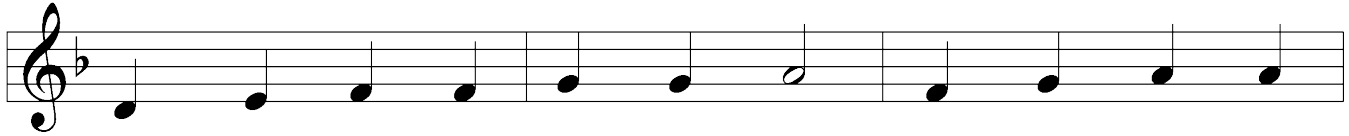
**People** **For the wickedness of his people, God has given his Son. O Blessed Jesus, who for us and for our salvation bore the weight of our sins up**

on 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**

**“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”  
(Verse 1-3)**

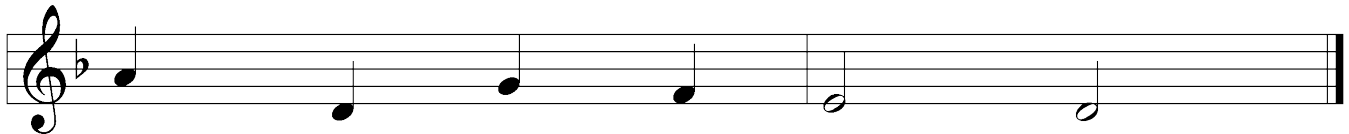
*LSB 447*



1 Je - sus, in Your dy - ing woes, E - ven while Your  
2 Sav - ior, for our par - don sue When our sins Your  
3 Oh, may we, who mer - cy need, Be like You in



life - blood flows, Crav - ing par - don for Your foes:  
pangs re - new, For we know not what we do:  
heart and deed, When with wrong our spir - its bleed:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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## THE THIRD STATION

The Cross Is Laid Upon Simon of Cyrene

- 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  
**Reader** 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”  
(Verse 3)

LSB 547

3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill  
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.  
*Refrain*  
Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His  
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

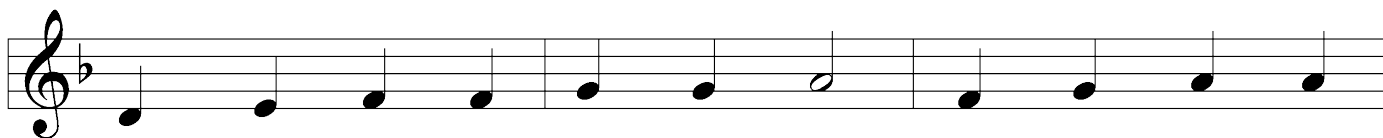
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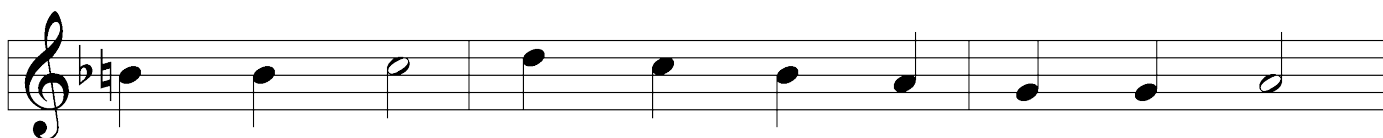
## THE FOURTH STATION

Our Lord Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem

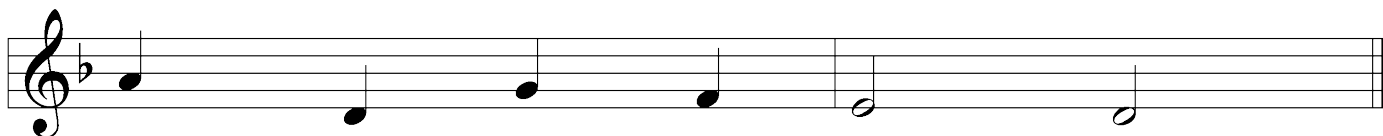
- Pastor We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
People **Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.**
- Lection** Luke 23:27-31  
Reader Just as many people were aghast at him -- he was so inhumanly disfigured that he no longer looked like a man -- so many nations 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.**



4 Je - sus, pit - y - ing the sighs Of the thief, who  
 5 May we in our guilt and shame Still Your love and  
 6 May our hearts to You in - cline And their thoughts Your



near You dies, Prom - is - ing him par - a - dise:  
 mer - cy claim, Call - ing hum - bly on Your name:  
 cross en - twine. Cheer our souls with hope di - vine:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.  
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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## 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

**Reader** 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.**

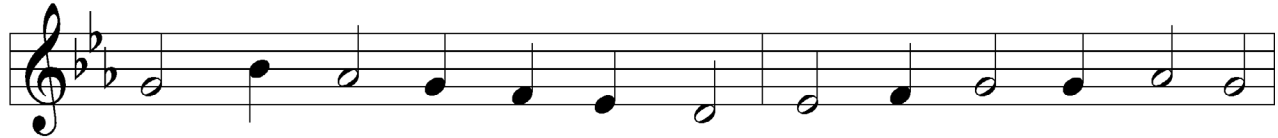
THE HYMN

“Jesus I Will Ponder Now”  
(Verse 4)

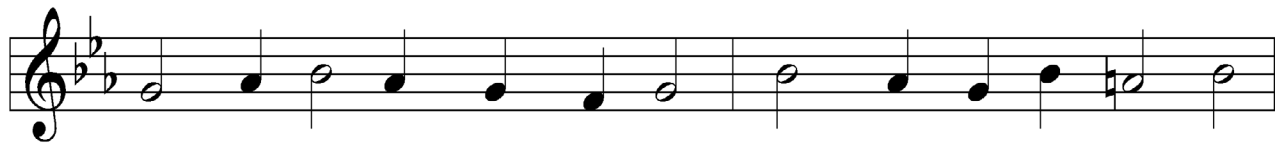
LSB 440



4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.

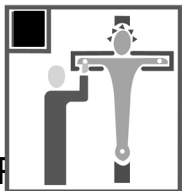


How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

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## THE SIXTH STATION

Our Lord Is Nailed to the Cross

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

**People**

**Because by your holy cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.**

**Lecton**

Mark 15:22-25, 33

THE ANTHEM

“What Wondrous, Marvelous Love”

Mary Ann Cooper  
Ascension Chorale  
Stephanie Bork, violenist



# 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  
**Reader** He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; up on him was the punishment that made us whole.

## THE HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”  
*LSB 451*  
(Verses 1-2, 4)

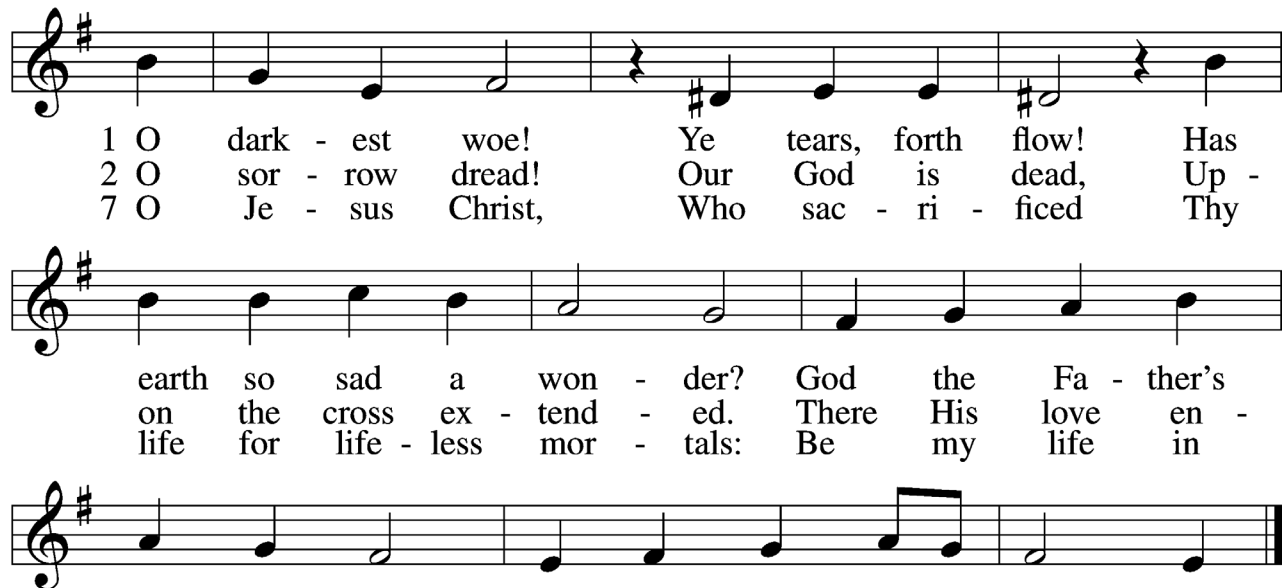


# THE EIGHTH STATION

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



1 O dark - est woe! Ye tears, forth flow! Has  
 2 O sor - row dread! Our God is dead, Up -  
 7 O Je - sus Christ, Who sac - ri - ficed Thy

earth so sad a won - der? God the Fa - ther's  
 on the cross ex - tend - ed. There His love en -  
 life for life - less mor - tals: Be my life in

on - ly Son Now is bur - ied yon - der.  
 liv - ened us As His life was end - ed.  
 death and bring Me to heav - en's por - tals!

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### 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.

### LORD'S PRAYER (Prayer to be whispered) *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People** 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 Removal of the Christ Candle and Strepitus (Timpani Roll)

### THE STREPITUS

The **Strepitus** (Latin for "great noise"), symbolizes the earthquake in great darkness that followed Christ's death. The rolling of the timpani signifies the death of Jesus and the sealing of the tomb. 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.

*(Note: There is no postlude on this solemn day.)*



### Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT AND PREACHER

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

CHOIR DIRECTOR

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

VIOLINIST

READER

ACOLYTES

Pastor John Larson

Michael Zehnder

Stephanie Roettjer

Diana Gaide

Stephanie Bork

Curt Engle

Ellise Friend, Colette Dallet



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