

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

## ***West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California***

Member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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**March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



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## ***Good Friday*** ***"Ironies of the Passion"***

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† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 51  
(Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

## **Opening Hymn: "Throned Upon the Awe-Full Tree"**

TLH 174 (tune of LSB 436)

- ♪ 1. *Throned upon the awe-full tree, King of grief, I watch with Thee.  
Darkness veils Thine anguished face; None its lines of woe can trace,  
None can tell what pangs unknown Hold Thee silent and alone.*
2. *Silent thro' those three dread hours, Wrestling with the evil pow'rs,  
Left alone with human sin, Gloom around Thee and within,  
Till th'appointed time is nigh, Till the Lamb of God may die.*
3. *Hark that cry that peals aloud Upward through the whelming cloud!  
Thou, the Father's only Son, Thou, His own Anointed One.  
Thou dost ask Him, Can it be? "Why hast Thou forsaken Me?"*
4. *Lord, should fear and anguish roll Darkly o'er my sinful soul,  
Thou, who once wast thus bereft That Thine own might ne'er be left,  
Teach me by that bitter cry In the gloom to know Thee nigh.*

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## **Invocation**

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**G** Amen.

## **Confession and Absolution**

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

- P** Beloved of God: We gather together on this Good Friday to worship our Savior and commemorate His death on the cross for our sins. Let us then draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

**C** O Lord God, our Merciful Father,

I come before you in awe and wonder as I consider the suffering and death that Your Son willingly endured for us all, and the amazing love that You have shown to me, a sinful, rebellious person.

I pray, "Wash me completely from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin." Fill me with an ever greater appreciation for the sacrifice You made for me. All the worship and praise that I can give cannot thank You enough for what You have done for me.

Hear my prayer for Jesus' sake and accept my thanks and praise and increase my faith and love for You. Amen.

- P** God's Word tells us, that although we were "dead in our trespasses...He has made us alive together with Him, having forgiven us all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13-14). Now, with boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

(tune of "The Doxology" - LSB Hymn 805)



Lord Je-sus Christ, You set us free — Accept our



thanks e-ter-na-lly! For-giv-en through Your precious



blood, We now are reconciled to God. Amen.

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## Responsive Reading

## Isaiah 53 (selected verses – NKJV)

*The responsive reading of selected verses of **Isaiah 53** a prophecy of the suffering and death of Christ Jesus for the sins of all people.*

**P** He is despised and rejected by men,

**C A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.**

**P** And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;

**C He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.**

**P** Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;

**C Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.**

**P** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;

**C The punishment for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.**

**P** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;

**C And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

**P** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth;

**C He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.**

**P** He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation?

**C For He was cut off from the land of the living;  
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.**

**P** And they made His grave with the wicked -- But with the rich at His death,

**C Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.**

**P** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His offspring,

**C He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.**

**P** He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.

**C By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,  
For He shall bear their iniquities.**

**P** Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,

**C** **And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
Because He poured out His soul unto death,**

**P** And He was numbered with the transgressors,

**C** **And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Heavenly Father, when Your Son hung on the cross, He cried out to You in agony and grief. You gave Him the strength to endure so that death might be destroyed and life restored. Have mercy on us all our days and preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting. We pray this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**C** Amen.

## Scripture Reading

*John 19:23-30 (EHV)*

<sup>23</sup> *When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took his tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.* <sup>24</sup> *So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it. Instead, let's cast lots to see who gets it." This was so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:*

*They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.*

*So the soldiers did these things.*

<sup>25</sup> *Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.*

<sup>26</sup> *When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!"* <sup>27</sup> *Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.*

<sup>28</sup> *After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst."*

<sup>29</sup> *A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.*

<sup>30</sup> *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!" Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.*

**P** Here ends our Scripture reading.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image**

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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**Confession of Faith: 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed** (Luther's Catechism, Sydow p. 87)

**C** "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,  
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;  
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.**

**This is most certainly true!"**

**Hymn of the Day: 450 v. 1, 3, 5-7 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

LSB 450



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weigh-ed down,  
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer-ed Was all for sin - ners' gain;  
5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,  
6 My Sav - ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;  
7 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.  
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?  
Then let Thy pres-ence cheer me, For - sake me nev - er - more!  
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!  
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;  
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,  
When soul and bod - y lan - guish, O leave me not a - lone,  
Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.  
But take a - way mine an - guish By vir - tue of Thine own!  
My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612  
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862 Tune: Public domain

## **Sermon Texts:**

### **John 19:28-30 (EHV)**

<sup>28</sup>After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst." <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!" Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

### **Matthew 27:62-66 (EHV)**

<sup>62</sup> On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, "Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' <sup>64</sup> So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead.' And this last deception will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.

## **Sermon Theme: Ironies of the Passion – He Said, "I Will Rise Again"**

- † Is there irony here on Good Friday? (irony: "a result that is the opposite of what might be expected")
  
- † What is "ironic" about these words from Jesus' enemies (as was the case with so many of their words during Jesus' suffering and death)?
  
- † How are both Law and Gospel shown to us clearly in the cross of Jesus?



## Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12 Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*  
(† *If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.* †)

## A Time of Silent Prayer & Personal Repentance

**Good Friday Prayer / Prayer Requests** *We bring our prayers to God.*

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

**☩ 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.**

## Sermon Hymn: 425 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Service of the Sacrament

### The Exhortation (adapted from TLH p. 47-48)

**P** Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Since we are intending to come to the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is appropriate for us to examine ourselves, as the Apostle Paul encourages us **(1 Corinthians 11:28)**. For this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But if we do examine ourselves, we will find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we can in no way set ourselves free. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy upon us and has taken upon Himself our flesh and blood, so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and Law of God, and for us and our deliverance has suffered death and hell and all that we by our sins have deserved.

And so, that we might more confidently believe this and be strengthened in our faith, He has instituted the Sacrament of His Supper, in which He feeds us with His body and gives us to drink of His blood. Therefore, whoever eats of this bread and drinks of this cup, firmly believing the words of Christ, dwells in Christ, and Christ in Him, and has eternal life!

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death, that He was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification. In thanksgiving to Him for doing all this we willingly take up our cross and follow Him, and, according to His commandment, love each other even as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink of this one cup **(1 Corinthians 10:17)**. Let us pray:

**Prayer Before Communion** (adapted from TLH – p. 4)

**☐ Dear Savior, upon Your gracious invitation I come to Your altar to receive Your body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes that I may approach Your Table in true faith and receive the Sacrament to the salvation of my soul. Amen.**

618 v. 1 | Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
 wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
 lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
*Refrain*  
 Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

## The Words of Institution

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.*

## Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- G** Amen.

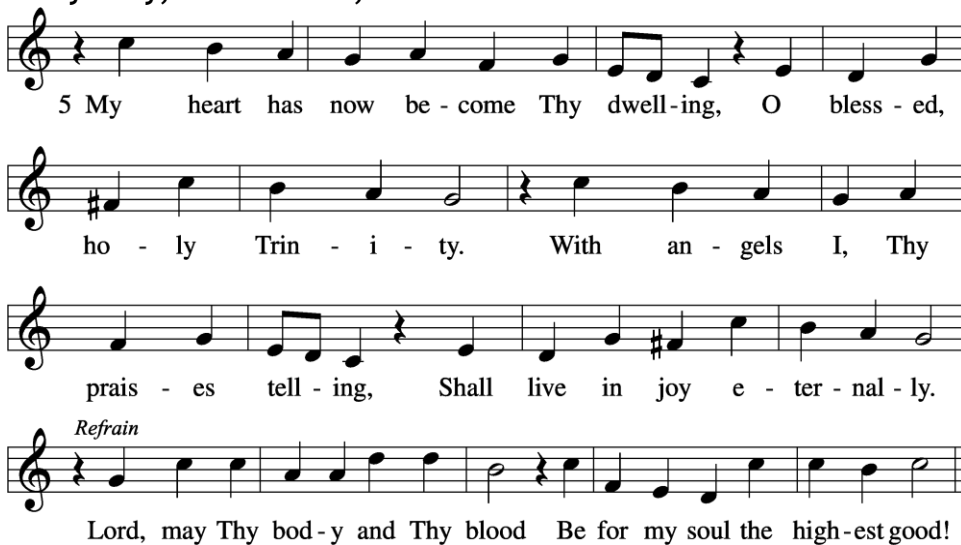
## The Distribution

*Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us today. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.*

## Prayer After Communion (adapted from TLH p. 4)

- G** O blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, I thank You for giving Yourself to me in this holy Sacrament. Keep me in Your faith and favor. As You live in me, let me also live in You. May Your body and blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life! Amen.

## 619 v. 5 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior



5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,  
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy  
prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

*Refrain*  
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.  
Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig  
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862  
Tune: Public domain


## **Benediction** *We hear God's blessing to us. The "Apostolic Blessing" (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!



**C** A - men, a - men, a - men.

**Closing Hymn: 550 "Lamb of God"** LSB 550 (Hayward) **Congregation Sings**  
(Mt. View) **Choir Sings**



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have  
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have




sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a  
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and




sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

*Refrain*



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text and tune: Twila Paris, 1958

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## **THE PASSION HISTORY OF CHRIST - Part 7 "The Burial of Our Lord"**

And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances and many women also were there, standing at a distance, looking on from afar, watching these things. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. When Jesus was in Galilee, they followed Him and ministered to Him, and they had followed Him from Galilee, ministering to Him. And there were many other women who had accompanied Him from Galilee and came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Jesus; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

And after these things, when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, behold, there came a rich man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews. He was a good and just man, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a prominent council member, but he had not consented to their counsel and deed.

This man took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, that he might take it away. And Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and, summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, Pilate gave him permission and commanded the body to be given to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus down. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden, Joseph's own new tomb, that was hewn out of the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore, because of the Jews' Preparation Day — that day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near — because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, the mother of Joses, sitting opposite the grave. They observed the tomb, and where and how His body was laid. And Joseph rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. And the women returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

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† ***In observance of our Savior's death***  
***we will be walking out of the service in silence.*** †

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### Acknowledgments



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Tomorrow (Sat. 3/30) – Easter Decorating and Set Up** (Mt. View) – **10am**

**Easter Sunday (3/31) – Easter Joint Worship Service** (Mt. View) – **10am**

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt – 11am**

**Easter Brunch – 11:30am**

**The video of our Good Friday service will be posted online tomorrow.**

**To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

**<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>**