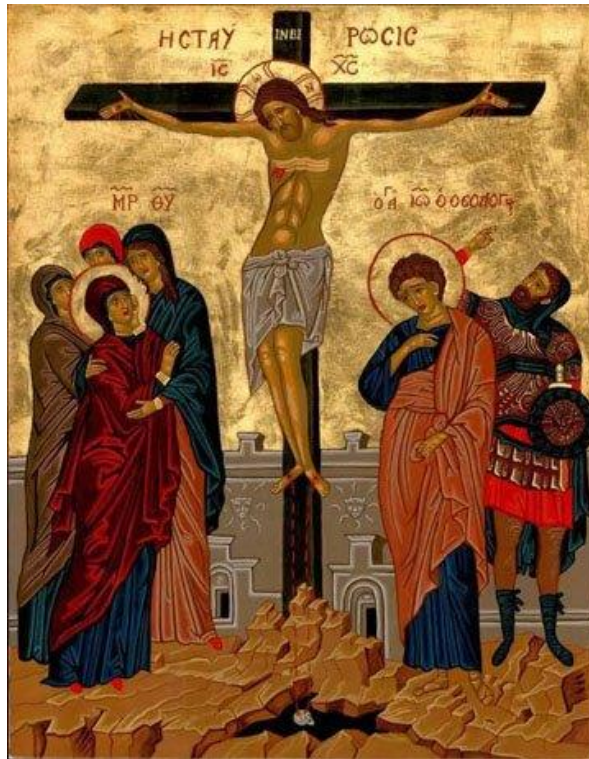


# GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18, 2025

7:00 PM



**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

12351 All Saints Place  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

*Our observance of the Three Days continues as a vigil of prayer beginning at 3p.m. on Holy Saturday, Keeping the Word Alive, as we wait for the Resurrection dawn.*

*The lenten fast and this Holy Week will end with three services on Easter.*

*Sunrise at 6:30 a.m. with affirmation of baptism*

*followed by worship at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.*

*There will be breakfast in the fellowship hall after the Sunrise and 9:00a.m. services.*

### ***INTRODUCTION TO TENEBRAE***

This service is a version of the ancient worship service of “Tenebrae” – Darkness – which was traditionally sung in Holy Week, to impress upon the minds and hearts of the Christians the awful consequences of Sin and the magnitude of the Savior’s sacrifice. The service begins in silence and ends in virtual darkness. The extinguishing of the candles has come to signify the running away of the disciples. One of the twelve candles is not lighted at all, to signify that Judas, one of the Twelve, had already betrayed Jesus into the hands of the enemy. The sharp closing of the book is to remind us of the all-conclusiveness of the atoning work of our Lord – the securing of salvation for all people – something which is truly finished. It also suggests the earthquake of the Passion narrative. To further impress upon us the completeness of Christ’s sacrificial death for us, there is no offering received during or after the worship service. Easter is much brighter when it is seen in contrast with the darkness of Good Friday “Tenebrae.”

*The ministers enter the sanctuary in silence and take their seats.*

*The congregation stands for the Prayer of the Day and then  
is seated for the duration of this solemn service.*

*The assembly stands.*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, 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. **C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## ORDER FOR THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:  
A Portion of Good Friday History:  
A Few Moments for Meditation ...

Isaiah 53:1-3  
Matthew 27:1-2

*First candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***Ah, Holy Jesus*** (vv. 1-2)

*back of bulletin*

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:  
A Portion of Good Friday History:  
A Few Moments for Meditation ...

Psalms 54:1-3  
Matthew 27:3-10

*Second candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***Ah, Holy Jesus*** (vv. 3-4)

*back of bulletin*

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;  
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;  
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,  
God interceded.

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,  
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;  
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
for my salvation.

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:  
A Portion of Good Friday History:  
A Few Moments for Meditation ...

Isaiah 53:7  
Matthew 27:11-14

*Third candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***Ah, Holy Jesus*** (v. 5)

*back of bulletin*

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;  
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,  
not my deserving.

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:  
A Portion of Good Friday History:  
A Few Moments for Meditation ...

Isaiah 53:10-12  
Matthew 27:15-26

*Fourth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*** (vv. 1-2)

*back of bulletin*

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.

How 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.

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:  
A Portion of Good Friday History:  
A Few Moments for Meditation ...

Isaiah 53:4-6  
Matthew 27:27-31

*Fifth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*** (vv. 3-4)

*back of bulletin*

What language shall I borrow  
to thank thee, dearest friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?  
Oh, make me thine forever,  
and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
outlive my love to thee.

Lord, be my consolation;  
shield me when I must die;  
remind me of thy passion  
when my last hour draws nigh.  
These eyes, new faith receiving,  
from thee shall never move;  
for all who die believing  
die safely in thy love.

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:  
A Portion of Good Friday History:  
A Few Moments for Meditation ...

Psalms 69:16-21  
Matthew 27:32-44

*Sixth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***Were You There?*** (vv. 1-2)

*back of bulletin*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:	Psalm 22:1-5
A Portion of Good Friday History:	Matthew 27:45-50
A Few Moments for Meditation ...	

*Seventh candle is extinguished.*

**SENIOR CHOIR**

*Pie Jesu*

Victor Johnson

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:	Psalm 2:1-6
A Portion of Good Friday History:	Matthew 27:51-56
A Few Moments for Meditation ...	

*Eighth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***Were You There?*** (v. 3)

*back of bulletin*

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:	Psalm 54:1-3
A Portion of Good Friday History:	Matthew 27:57-61
A Few Moments for Meditation ...	

*Ninth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***Were You There?*** (v. 4)

*back of bulletin*

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:  
A Portion of Good Friday History:  
A Few Moments for Meditation ...

Psalm 143:1-4  
Matthew 27:62-66

*Tenth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN:**

***Were You There?*** (v. 5)

*back of bulletin*

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

An Old Testament Prophetic Word:  
A Portion of the New Testament which  
applies the death of Jesus to God's people: Hebrews 10:19-23  
A Few Moments for Meditation ...

Psalm 51:1-4

*Eleventh candle is extinguished.*

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

*The assembly kneels. The Deacon leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). Silence for prayer follows each bid. The Senior Pastor leads the prayer that concludes the silence.*

P: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world, that God the almighty Father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth. **C: Amen.**

*Silent prayer.*

P: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in your Son, Jesus Christ. Guide the mission of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may keep together in one communion all those who know Christ as Lord.

*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.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God, that they may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

*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 first called and elected as your own may arrive with us at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

*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, your people, more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find the One who is the Author and Goal of our existence.

*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. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for those in need, that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may 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.

*Silent prayer.*

P: Almighty and eternal God, give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. 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.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, let us pray in the words our Lord Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

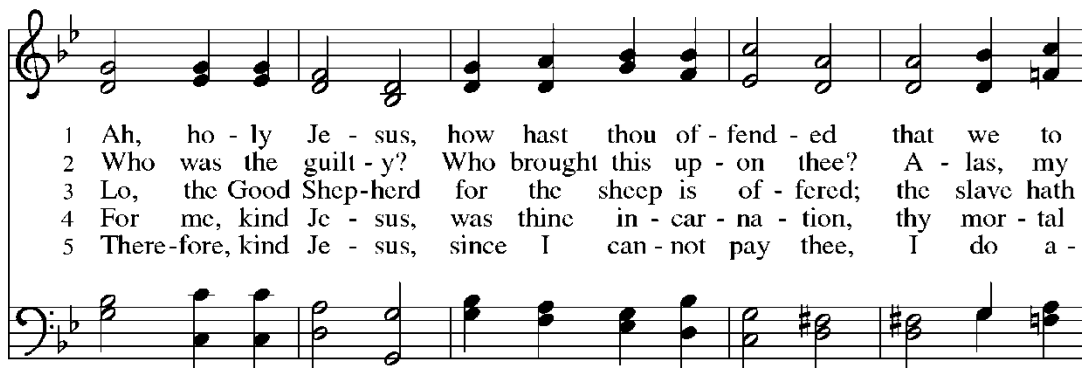
**C: Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,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

## **TOLLING OF THE BELL AND REMOVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

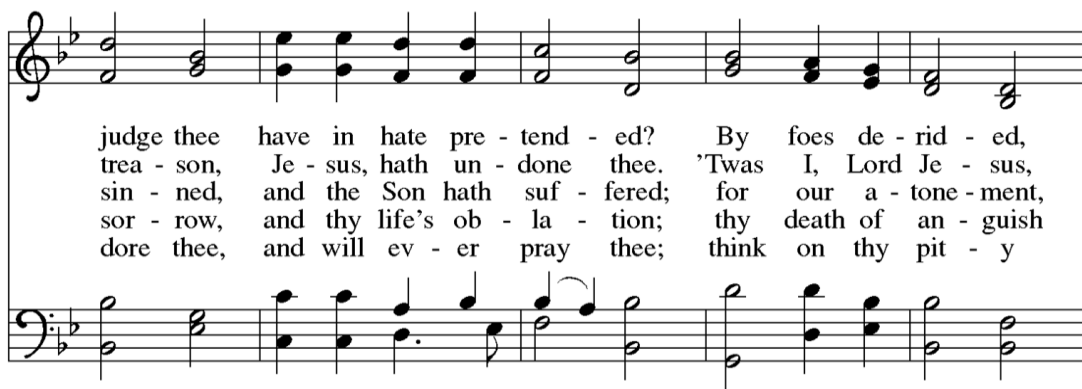
*The bell is tolled 33 times. Scripture tells us that Jesus began his ministry when he was 30 years old. Keeping time in John's Gospel through Jesus' repeated celebration of the Passover, we count a public ministry of 3 years. This is why Jesus is said to have been 33 years old when he was crucified.*

*The congregation departs in silence.*

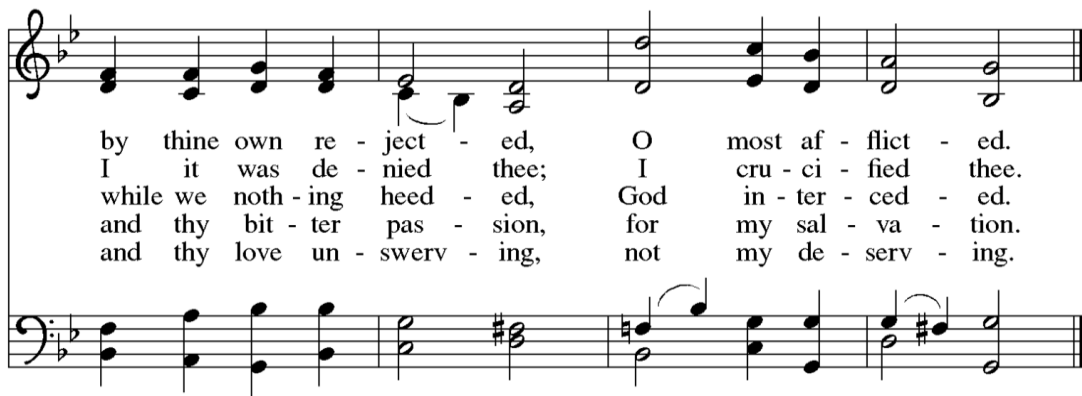
## *Ah, Holy Jesus*



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 -

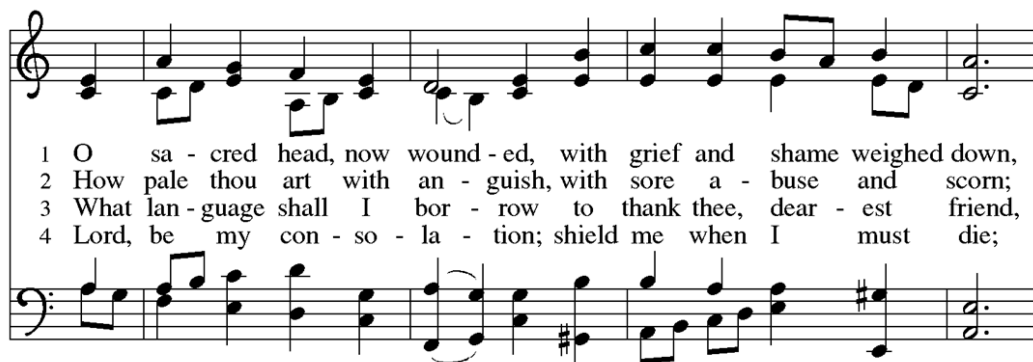


judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
 dore thee, and will ev - er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

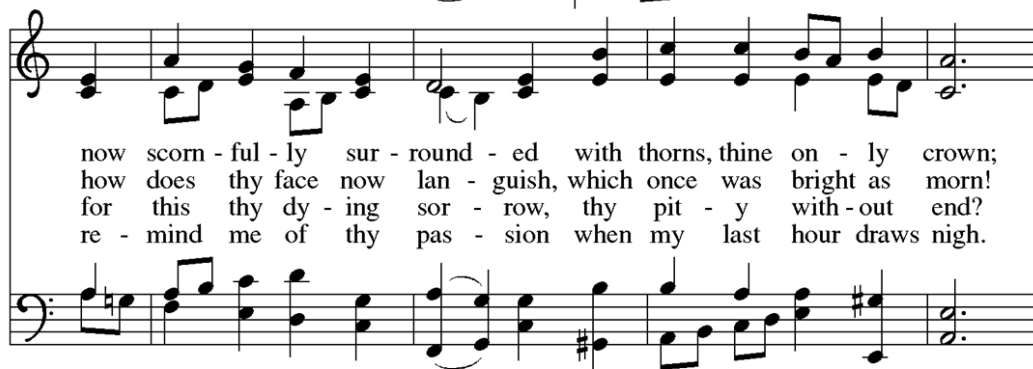


by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

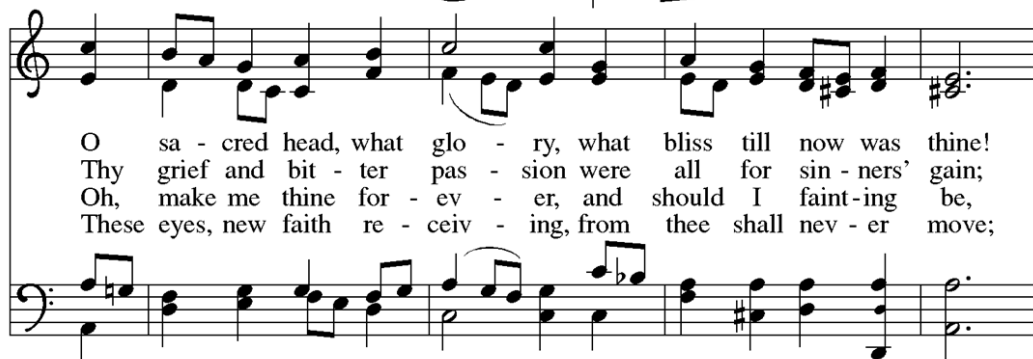
## *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*



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 - bus 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 - ges - 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.

## 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?