

**April 18 2025**

**Good Friday**



## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Interim Pastor † Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant  
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.*

*Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

**QUESTIONS:**

Who has believed our message and to whom has the Lord been revealed?

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

How pale thou art with anguish, what language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: We gather, broken but united, to worship God.

**C: We gather to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us, and give thanks for God's mercy and love poured out for us and the world.**

P: Who has believed His message and to whom has the Lord been revealed?

**C: Humbly we follow Jesus to the cross and humbly acknowledge our part in His passion.**

P: He has no beauty or majesty for us to be attracted to Him. There was nothing in His appearance that should call us to Him. He was despised and rejected, a Man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

**C: We seek to understand the depth of this sacrifice and gather this day to pray and worship together, giving thanks for our Savior Jesus Christ.**

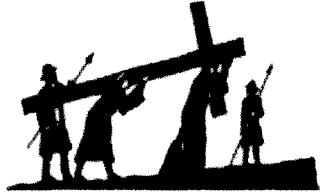
*Due to the solemnity of the service there will be no applause.*

*Please turn off your cell phones.*

# "The Weeping Tree"

By Joseph Martin

Narration by Pamela Martin



## I. *Procession Of the Cross*

**OPENING HYMN**     *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*     ELW #803

### **NARRATION**

Come and see the weeping tree.

Her once towering limbs now lie discarded on the ground, never again to feel the embrace of children as they climb. Once the most beautiful tree in the garden, she has been stripped, her bark peeled away in large ribbons. Her magnificent trunk sawed in two, she stands transformed into a cross. Surrounded by angry shouts and the cries of mourners, she awaits the cruel embrace between wood and flesh. And now, cut from her roots, the weeping tree slowly begins to die along with the Man who hangs cursed upon her.

He redeemed us by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is the one who is hung on a tree." [*Deuteronomy 21:23*]

## II. *The Weeping Tree*

Soloist: Patricia Angarano

### **NARRATION**

Come and see the robe.

As the soldiers walked across Pilate's courtyard, one of them bore the robe on his out-stretched arms. With a flourish, he draped it over the shoulders of the Man who now hangs on the cross above them. "Hail, king of the Jews!" the soldiers laughed as they struck Him in the face and spit on Him. Now at the foot of the weeping tree, they divide His garments, as the robe lies crumpled between them.

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from their mocking and spitting. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. [*Isaiah 50:6; Psalm 22:11b-18*]

### **III. *Of Tears and Sorrows*** Soloists: Ruth Bowden and Scott Breiner

#### **NARRATION**

Come and see the crown of thorns.

The soldiers mocked Him and said to one another, "But where is his crown? Surely every king must have a crown!" So, one of them twisted together a crown of thorns and pressed it into His brow. Then they bowed before Him and ridiculed Him. The crown now grows heavy and His head aches from the pressure of the thorns that bite into His flesh; and above Him a sign reads, "Jesus of Nazareth. The king of the Jews."

And you, Son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you. [*Ezekiel 2:6a*]

### **IV. *Lamentation of the Cross***

#### **HYMN**

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

ELW #351

Congregation, please join in singing verses 3 & 4 upon invitation.

#### **NARRATION**

Come and see the nails.

The Man on the tree knows the nails. The hands that picked them up from the floor of His father's carpenter shop are larger now and calloused from working with timber. He feels them sharp against His skin as the hammer cries out. Iron meets flesh and bone, wounding both Man and tree as the nails come to rest in the splintering wood.

If someone asks, "What are these wounds on your body?" he will answer, "The wounds I was given at the house of my friends. For they have surrounded me; they pierced my hands and my feet." And he also said, "But

I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." [*Zechariah 13:6; Psalm 22:16b; Isaiah 49:15b-16b*]

## ***V. Wondrous Love, Wondrous Cross***

**HYMN**                      *What Wondrous Love Is This?*                      ELW #666  
 Congregation, please join in singing verses 2, 3, & 4 upon invitation.

### **NARRATION**

Come see the drops of blood.

Blood begins to flow from His brow, His hands, His feet, and with every drop He becomes weaker and more thirsty. Hour after hour passes and His life pours out with every heartbeat. The tree and the Man seem to be one - the tree weeping the Man's blood, the Man weeping the sorrows of the world.

My blood is poured out like water; my strength is dried up within me. I am disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before me. I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. Scorn has broken my heart and it has turned to wax and melted away.  
 [*Psalm 22:14-16a, Psalm 69:20*]

## ***VI. Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed?***

### **NARRATION**

Come and see the weeping tree.

Although many want to turn away, they stand as though rooted to the ground. Before them, the weeping tree holds the Man of sorrows against the heavens. Whether sought after or rejected, praised or condemned, He has drawn them to Himself again and again. The curious, the grieving, the vengeful, the pious, even the apathetic-all have come to the hillside this day. Darkness hangs like a shroud over the sun and the earth trembles. One final breath. It is finished.

I was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering. Surely I took up your infirmities and carried your sorrows. I was pierced for your transgressions. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life. I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to me. [*Isaiah 53:3-5; John 3:14-15, John 12:32*]

## **VII. *Without His Cross***

Soloist: Patricia Angarano

### **THE BIDDING PRAYER**

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

*A brief silence*

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.**

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.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ. (*Silence*) 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.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God. (*Silence*) 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.**

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.**

Let us pray for God's creation. *(Silence)* Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office. *(Silence)* 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.**

Let us pray for those in need. *(Silence)* 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.**

## **VIII. *The Weeping Tree***

## Epilogue

*All depart in silence, without benediction.  
Remain and pray as long as you like.*

*As you leave the sanctuary you may pray before the cross and place your offering in the plates located inside the entry ways.*

*Special thank you to Pastor Wendolyn, Meg Markkanen, Stephen Gring, our cross bearers, and the Grace Consort, under the direction of Scott Breiner.*

## Devotional Message from the Pastor

There's something about music. There is a power, a way of gathering people into something bigger, a beauty that shares truth that our spirits long for. On this day – Good Friday – music is our call to actions of worship, our call to community, our call to see anew what Jesus does for us in his great love, faithfulness, and courage. Music transforms this time so that the Word spoken, sung, living and enlivened, can meet us. We thank God for music.

Music is also an offering. Someone starts the song. A choir, an instrumentalist, a solo voice ... someone has practiced and given of their very breath that we may hear the message of Good Friday. Not only that, but someone wrote the music, someone listened and chose this piece, someone invited people to gather. A group formed into a chorale, giving of their individual voices so that there could be harmony. The interweaving of choir voices, silence, the organ, and congregation create a moment that we enter into, each of us and all of us. We give ourselves to the story of Good Friday through this unique worship service. Someone starts the song, so that we may join in. We thank God for all of the people who brought us into this time of worship.

As a Pastor, I often deal in words. Preaching, praying, visiting, administrating ... spoken words are how I serve. I rarely start the song. But when I join in, I am blessed and I am transformed. I invite you to pause this day and be amazed at the power of music, and how it brings us to encounter deep truths of life. I pray that this Good Friday, this cantata will be the music that meets you to bring you into that Friday long ago, the most imperfect day, and that today's music reminds you that this story is of God's undying love, shown in Jesus' dying for all people... for you.

Peace,  
Pastor Wendolyn