

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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

7:00 pm Service

## Good Friday

**Introduction to Good Friday Worship:** Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in Easter.

## Gathering

*Please enter and meditate in silence.*

*Please remain seated for the service.*

*Prelude*

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded – *David Cherwien*

Call to Worship

Let us pause to pray and reflect upon the great mercy of our God, who this day gave us his only begotten Son to save us from sin.

Hymn

## Were You There?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble,

trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

Text: African American Spiritual. Music: African American Spiritual. Tune: Were You There, 10 10 14 10.

## Procession of the Cross

Behold the Life-Giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Lighting of the Candles

### Anthem

*And He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word*  
arr. William Gross – Bells Angels

## The Trial

Then Pilate addressed the crowd saying, "Shall I release to you this man called Jesus, King of the Jews?"

**No! We want Barabbas!**

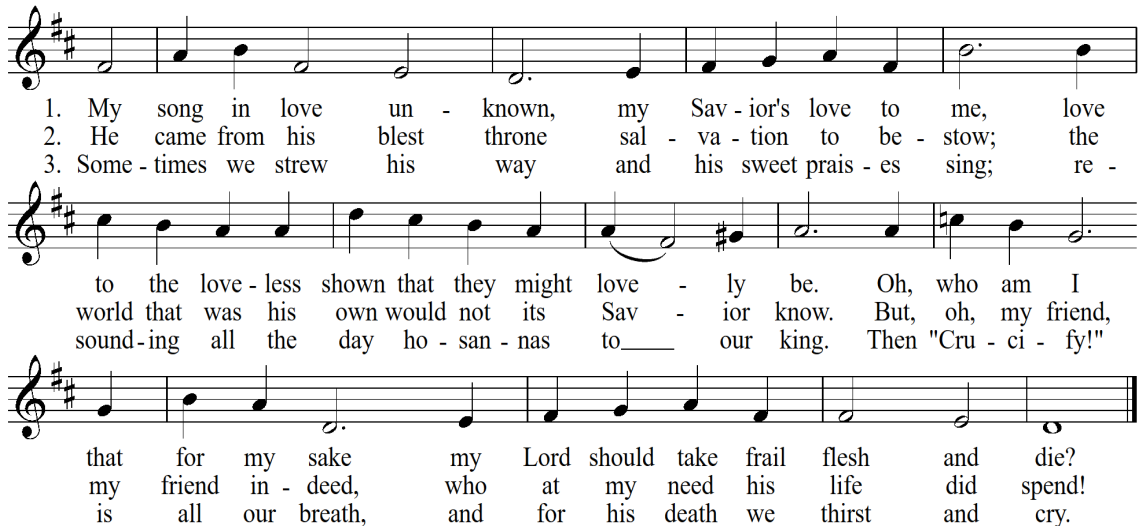
So Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged, and the soldiers placed a crown of thorns on his head, dressed him in a purple robe and mocked him saying,

**"Hail, King of the Jews."**

Pilate then brought him before the crowd and said, "Here is the man."

## Hymn

### #343 My Song is Love Unknown (Stanzas 1-3)



1. My song in love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me, love  
 2. He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow; the  
 3. Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing; re -

to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be. Oh, who am I  
 world that was his own would not its Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend,  
 sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!"

that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 my friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
 is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.

Text: Samuel Crossmann, 1624-1683, alt. Music: John Ireland, 1879-1962. Copyright © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust. Tune: Love Unknown 66 66 448. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

When the chief priests and police saw him, they shouted,

**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**

Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him; I find no case against him." But they cried out all the more,

**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**

Pilate, being afraid of the crowd asked, "Jesus, do you not know I have the power to release you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me unless given to you from above." From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus, but the Jews cried out,

**Away with Him! Crucify Him!**

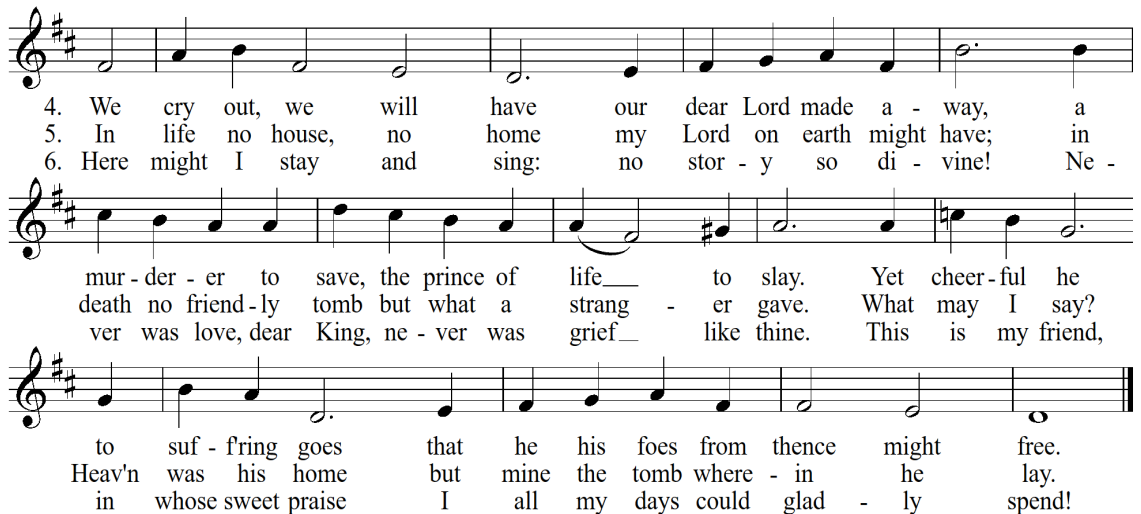
Pilate asked, "Shall I crucify your King?"

**We have no King but Caesar!**

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. He had placed on the cross over Jesus' head a sign in Hebrew, Latin and Greek; 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews'.

## Hymn

## #343 My Song is Love Unknown (Stanzas 4-6)



4. We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a - way, a  
5. In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have; in  
6. Here might I stay and sing: no stor - y so di - vine! Ne -

mur - der - er to save, the prince of life\_\_\_ to slay. Yet cheer - ful he  
death no friend - ly tomb but what a strang - er gave. What may I say?  
ver was love, dear King, ne - ver was grief\_\_\_ like thine. This is my friend,

to suf - fring goes that he his foes from thence might free.  
Heav'n was his home but mine the tomb where - in he lay.  
in whose sweet praise I all my days could glad - ly spend!

## Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Word

Message

Pastor Ann Williams

Offertory Anthem

*Ah, Holy Jesus* by Donald McCullough  
– Senior Choir

## Service of Tenebrae

*After each reading a candle is extinguished and we meditate in silence on the story of Jesus giving his life for our sakes.*

## The First Word

Lesson

Luke 23:32-34

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’

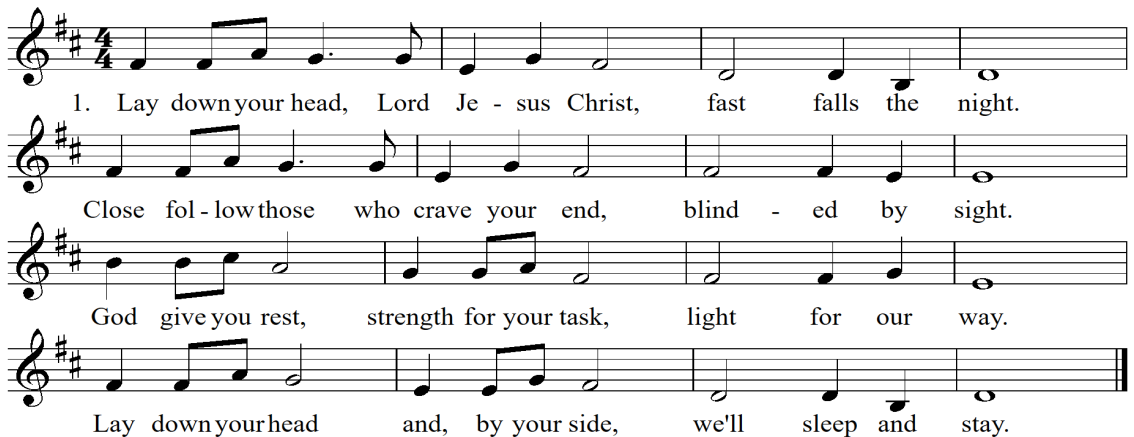
Prayer

Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love.

**Amen.**

Hymn

## Lay Down Your Head (Stanza 1)



1. Lay down your head, Lord Je - sus Christ, fast falls the night.  
Close fol - low those who crave your end, blind - ed by sight.  
God give you rest, strength for your task, light for our way.  
Lay down your head and, by your side, we'll sleep and stay.

The Second Word

## Lesson

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service and that we may not fail or deny you in the hour of trial.

**Amen.**

## Reflection

Were You There?

The Third Word

## Lesson

John 19:25-27

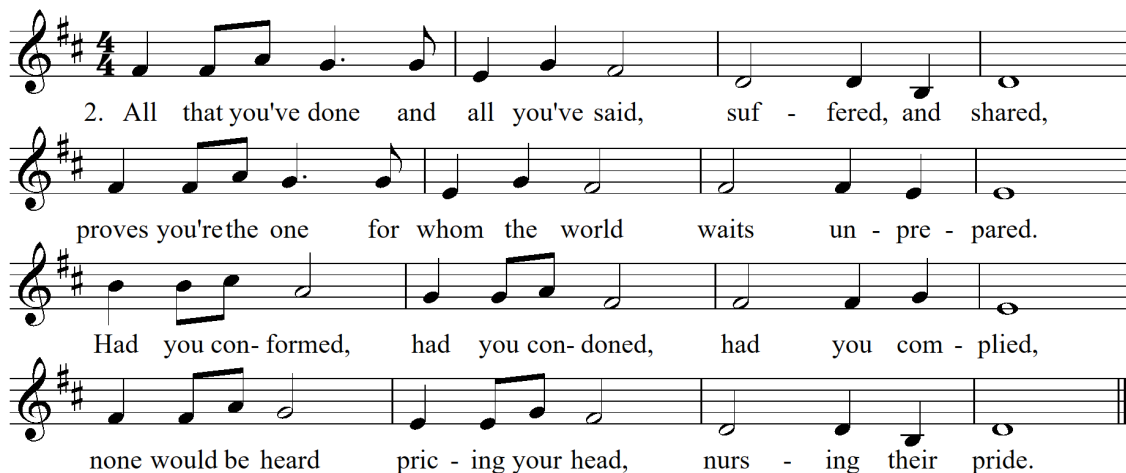
Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

## Prayer

Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ; you have sent your Son to show us your love and the way of life. Make us sincerely thankful for this gift and for your patience with our sins and sorrow.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

**Lay Down Your Head (Stanza 2)**


2. All that you've done and all you've said, suf - fered, and shared,  
 proves you're the one for whom the world waits un - pre - pared.  
 Had you con - formed, had you con - doned, had you com - plied,  
 none would be heard pric - ing your head, nurs - ing their pride.

*The Fourth Word*

## Lesson

**Matthew 27:45-49**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.'

## Prayer

Lord God, our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word and, when we fall, raise us again and restore us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Reflection

**Were You There?**

The Fifth Word

## Lesson

John 19:28-29

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

## Prayer

Merciful Lord, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all who suffer pain or grief to find in him strength and peace, so that their trust in your promises may be renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

**Lay Down Your Head (Stanza 3)**


3. What lies a-head we fear to guess, you fail to fear:  
 hope seems to fade, heav'n seems far, hell seems so near.  
 Here, with our faith stretched to the full, put to the test,  
 you calm-ly talk, then kneel to pray, then take your rest.

The Sixth Word

## Lesson

John 19:30

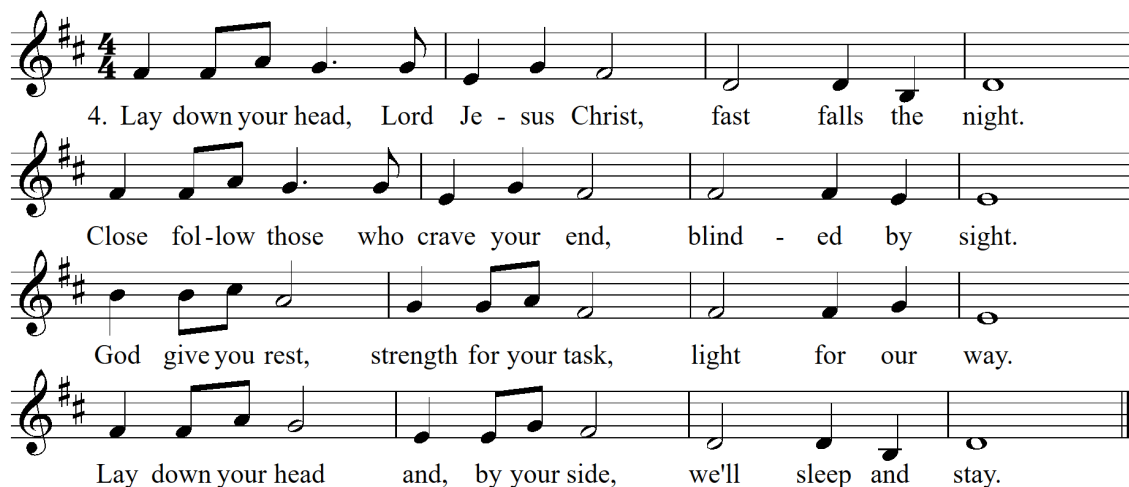
When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."

## Prayer

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we come to the final joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

**Lay Down Your Head (Stanza 4)**


4. Lay down your head, Lord Je - sus Christ, fast falls the night.  
 Close fol-low those who crave your end, blind - ed by sight.  
 God give you rest, strength for your task, light for our way.  
 Lay down your head and, by your side, we'll sleep and stay.

*The Seventh Word*

## Lesson

## Luke 23:44-49

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**



The Lament

Since it was the day of Preparation, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave his permission. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with spices in linen cloths. And they placed the body in a nearby tomb.

## Hymn

**Were You There**

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

trem-ble. \_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they laid him in the tomb. \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Depart in Peace*