

† AS WE GATHER †

*“The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord, We celebrate with one accord”
(LSB 634:1).*

Those words of a Swedish hymn written in the 1600s may seem difficult for us to comprehend. What is there to celebrate? Why is today good?

In Old English, the word good meant “sacred” or “holy”—so it would be proper to refer to this day as “Holy Friday.” And yet the great goodness of God in Jesus Christ is most fully on display at the cross.

Without the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, our Lord, on this day, there would be no basis for His glorious resurrection in three days.

Today is the good day that leads us to the great day of Easter yet to come!

† THE WEeping TREE †

Outside the city wall stands the weeping tree.

In silence she lifts her weary arms against the darkened sky.

She is a gathering place for the sorrowful and a sanctuary for the grieving. Her shadows are a hiding place for the oppressed and a refuge for the lost. Under her graceful canopy there is comfort and beneath her towering presence there is shelter from the storm.

Long ago, she was planted on a windswept hill where all could see her solitary silhouette and, though fixed in barren soil, her roots grew deep into the hearts of all who drew near her.

Watered by a thousand years, her sylvan branches once held a perfect harvest, for heaven had chosen her rugged frame to be the bearer of grace. There in her crooked and twisted arms she cradled Jesus, the Hope of the World. She who was cut and fashioned by hatred and violence became a tree of life for the world.

Her arms are outstretched still.

The Power of the Cross

CCLI Song #4490766

1) **Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day, Christ on the road to Calvary. Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then Nailed to a cross of wood.**

3) **Now the daylight flees, Now the ground beneath Quakes as its Maker bows His head. Curtain torn in two; dead are raised to life– Finished the vict’ry cry.**

Refrain:

This the pow’r of the cross: Christ became sin for us. Took the blame bore the wrath; We stand forgiven at the cross.

2) **Oh to see the pain Written on Your face; Bearing the awesome weight of sin. Ev’ry bitter thought ev’ry evil deed, Crowning Your bloodstained brow.**

[Refrain]

4) **Oh to see my name Written in the wounds; For through Your suff’ring I am free; Death is crushed to death; Life is mine to live, Won through Your selfless love.**

Final Refrain:

**This, the pow’r of the cross
Son of God slain for us
What a life, what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

(Repeat)

Procession of the Cross

The Weeping Tree

L Come and see the weeping tree.

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*

The first candle is extinguished

I. The Weeping Tree *(Theme)*

Soloist: Julie Yapoujian

The second candle is extinguished

L Come and see the robe.

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.

based on Isaiah 50:6 and Psalm 22:17b-18

II. Of Tears and Sorrows

Soloists: Karie Neville & Bruce Grogan

The third candle is extinguished.

L Come and see the crown of thorns.

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.

based on Ezekiel 2:6a

III. Lamentation of the Cross

The fourth candle is extinguished

The Strepitus

This loud noise symbolizes the closing of the tomb, the earthquake at the time of Christ’s death, and that Jesus redemptive work on the Cross was finished the moment He died.

L Come and see the nails.

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.

*based on Zechariah 13:6; Psalm 22: 16b;
and Isaiah 49: 15b-16a*

IV. Wondrous Love, Wondrous Cross

The fifth candle is extinguished.

L Come and see the drops of blood.

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.

based on Psalm 22:14-16a and Psalm 69:20

V. Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?

The sixth candle is extinguished.

ILC Chamber Orchestra

L Come and see the weeping tree.

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.

*based on Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5a; John 3:14-15,
and John 12:32*

VI. Without His Cross

Soloist: Lori Woodruff

The seventh candle is extinguished

The Weeping Tree *(Epilogue)*

ILC Chamber Orchestra

The Christ Candle Recesses

Silent Prayer

There is no postlude. Tonight, we leave the sanctuary in silence as we survey in our minds the wondrous work Jesus accomplished for us on the Cross.

Prior to exiting the church, please take a moment to come forward and use the ashes to put your thumbprints on the

'weeping tree'

† PREPARATION †

† **Prelude** *“Jesus, I will Ponder Now”* arr. Wilbur Held

† **Chiming of the Hour**

Stand

† **Hymn of Preparation** Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle LSB 454

P Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

C He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

† **Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray together.

C Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord’s passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

† **Homily**

† **Offering Meditation**

The Robe of Calvary
arr. Kathleen Twomey, Fred White, Robert St. Clair, Elaine Rivers
Soloist: Deanne Schultz

† **Bidding Prayer**

A Let us pray...

P ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

† **Lord’s Prayer**

A Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

C 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.

A Time of Silence for meditation on the crucified Savior

† **Hymn of Assurance** The Power of the Cross Words printed to left

Our thanks to those who performed
in worship for Good Friday:

Members of the ILC Chamber Orchestra

<i>Violin I</i> Audie Szymanski	<i>Flute</i> Kerry Walker	<i>Timpani</i> Caleb Harris
<i>Violin II</i> Rachel Sloane	<i>Clarinet</i> Monica Wooley	<i>Percussion</i> Jordan Tulley
<i>Viola</i> Lizbeth Burrows	<i>Oboe / English Horn</i> Jim Thoensen	
<i>Cello</i> Nathan McCuin	<i>Bassoon</i> Anastasia Miller	<i>Piano</i> Laura Schultz Merrick
<i>Double Bass</i> Kevin Callaghan	<i>Horn</i> Barbara Reineke	

Music from the ILC Adult Choir:

<i>Soloists, in order of apperance</i>	Deanne Schultz
	Julie Yapoujian
	Karie Neville
	Bruce Grogan
	Lori Woodruff
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	Oyeniran Oyedeji

Our thanks to those who
served in worship for Good Friday:

<i>Presiding Minister & Preacher</i>	Pastor Doka
<i>Narrators</i>	Joe Bacher
	Emilie Dupre
<i>Usher</i>	Jim Heimbuecher and Geoffrey Lagas
<i>AV Technicians</i>	(A) Joel Wardenburg and Tyler Pezzo
	(V) Shane Lindley
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Linda Thunhorst
<i>Liturgical Dancers</i>	Megan Hollrah
	Emma Dobson
<i>Choreographer</i>	Diane Wardenburg
<i>Symbol Bearer</i>	Abigail Bacher
<i>Acolyte/ Crucifer</i>	Ani Yapoujian



Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:4

Good Friday

**April 7th, 2023
7:00pm**