

**Midweek Lenten Worship**  
**The Suffering Savior In Scripture**  
***The Road to Easter Begins in Eden***  
**“The Servant Who Suffers For Us”**  
***Isaiah 52:13-53:12***  
**March 25, 2026**  
**Heritage Lutheran Church**  
**Apple Valley, MN**  
**6:30 p.m.**



**1. Welcome**

**2. The Confession Of Sin and Absolution:**

**Pastor** Dearly Beloved, we have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

**Congregation** Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

**Pastor** The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### 3. Hymn #331 “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” (verses 1-5,10)

1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, The guilt of all men bearing;  
And laden with the sins of earth, None else the burden sharing!  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint, To slaughter led without complaint,  
That spotless life to offer; Bears shame and stripes, and wounds and death,  
Anguish and mockery, and saith, “Willing all this I suffer.”

2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great Friend, The Lamb of God, our Savior;  
Him God the Father chose to send To gain for us His favor.  
“Go forth, My Son,” the Father saith, “And free men from the fear of death,  
From guilt and condemnation. The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Thy Passion men shall share The fruit of Thy salvation.”

3 “Yea, Father, yea, most willingly I’ll bear what Thou commandest;  
My will conforms to Thy decree, I do what Thou demandest.”  
O wondrous Love, what hast Thou done! The Father offers up His Son;  
The Son, content, descendeth! O Love, how strong Thou are to save!  
Thou layest Him within the grave Whose might the boulders rendeth.

4 Upon the cross Thou off’rest Him, Nails, spear, deep wounds bestowing;  
Thou slaught’rest Him e’en as a lamb, His soul and veins are flowing;  
From veins it is the crimson flood Of His most holy, precious blood,  
From soul His mighty sighing. O dearest Lamb, what shall I do  
To show Thee my devotion true For such great good supplying?

5 Lord, all my life I’ll cling to Thee, Thy love fore’er beholding.  
Thee ever, as Thou ever me, With loving arms enfolding. Yea,  
Thou shalt be my precious Light To guide me safe through death’s dark night,  
My heart in sorrow cheering; Henceforth myself and all I have  
To Thee, my Savior, e’er I’ll give, Into Thy cause all pouring.

10 And when Thy glory I shall see And taste Thy kingdom’s pleasure,  
Thy blood my royal robe shall be, My joy beyond all measure;  
When I appear before Thy throne, Thy righteousness shall be my crown,  
With these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought  
As Thine own bride, I shall be brought To stand in joy beside Thee.

### 4. The Versicles and Gloria Patri

**Pastor** O Lord, Open my lips.

♪ **Congregation** And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

**Pastor** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

♪ **Congregation** Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: forevermore, Amen.

### 5. The Psalm – Psalm 118:19-29 (read responsively by whole verse)

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

<sup>29</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

## 6. Scripture Lesson: *Passion Reading*

### The Sufferings and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ According To The Four Evangelists

By *John C. Lawrenz*

[Following the New International Version translation and patterned after the *Passion History* as printed in the *Lutheran Lectionary* of the former Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America.]

## 5. Jesus Condemned to Death

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as One who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined Him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against Him. Neither has Herod, for he sent Him back to us. As you can see, He has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish Him and then release Him."

Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate said to them, "It is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Which of the two do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus, the King of the Jews, who is called Christ?" Pilate knew it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, because I have suffered a great deal today in a dream on account of Him." But the chief priests and the elders stirred up the crowd and persuaded them to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again, "What shall I do, then, with Jesus, who is called Christ, the one you call the king of the Jews?"

"Crucify Him!" they shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

For a third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in Him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have Him punished and then release Him." But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify Him!" and their shouts prevailed.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace of the governor, the Praetorium, and called together the whole company of soldiers. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on him, wove a crown of thorns and set it on His head, put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of Him worshipping. They spit on Him, struck Him in the face, and took the staff and struck Him on the head again and again. They mocked Him and began to call out to Him; "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against Him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

But Pilate answered, "You take Him and crucify Him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against Him." The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do You come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do You refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't You realize I have power either to free You or to crucify You?"

Jesus answered, "You have no power over Me that was not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar's. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as The Stone Pavement, which in Aramaic is Gabbatha. It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, Pilate granted their demand, wanting to satisfy the crowd. He took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said, "it is your responsibility!"

All the people answered, "Let His blood be on us and on our children!"

Then he released Barabbas, the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, and had Jesus flogged. He then surrendered Jesus to their will to be crucified.

The soldiers of the governor took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus. He was passing by on his way in from the country. They seized him, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

A large number of people followed Jesus, including women who mourned and wailed for Him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then, 'They will say to the mountains: Fall on us; and to the hills: Cover us!' For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

## 7. **A Responary** *page 122*

**Pastor** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to You, O Lord!

## 8. **Hymn #264 "Jesus Priceless Treasure"**

1 Jesus, priceless Treasure, Source of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me.  
Ah, how long I've panted And my heart hath fainted, Thirsting, Lord, for Thee.  
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee, Naught I ask beside Thee.

2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.  
Fires may flash And thunder crash;  
Yea, and sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

3 Hence, with earthly treasure! Thou art all my Pleasure, Jesus, all my Choice.  
Hence, thou empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.  
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross  
Shall not from my Savior move me Since He deigns to love me.

4 Fare thee well that errest, Thou that earth preferrest, Thou wilt tempt in vain.  
Fare thee well, transgression, Hence, abhorred possession, Come not forth again.  
Past your hour, O pride and pow'r,  
Worldly life, thy bonds I sever, Fare thee well forever!

5 Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest Pleasure, Jesus, priceless Treasure.

## 9. Sermon “The Servant Who Suffers For Us” *Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

<sup>52:13</sup> Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

<sup>14</sup> As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—<sup>15</sup> so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. <sup>53:1</sup> Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. <sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? <sup>9</sup> And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

## 10. The Offering

### 11. The Versicle & Canticle

**Pastor** Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

♪ **Congregation** And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

### 12. The Nunc Dimittis

♪ **Congregation** Lord, now You let your servant depart in peace according to Your Word

For my eyes have seen Your Salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people.

A Light to lighten the Gentiles; and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end, Amen.

### 13. The Prayers, beginning with The Kyrie

♪ **Congregation** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

### 14. The Lord's Prayer

♪ **Congregation** 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.

### 15. Luther's Evening Prayer

**Congregation** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## 16. The Benedicamus & Benediction

**Pastor** Let us bless the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to God.

**Pastor** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

## 17. Closing Hymn #288 “Beneath The Cross Of Jesus Kneeling”

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus kneeling  
Dawns on my soul the endless day;  
There, deeper than all tides of feeling,  
Doth God His boundless grace display;  
Thence flow the mystic healing waves;  
There all my stains the Savior laves.

2 God wrought for man, His love forth-showing,  
When Moses smote the rock of old;  
And, lo, through Israel's camp on-flowing,  
Broke forth the longed-for flood, and rolled,  
New strength, new joy, new life bestowed,  
On lips that quaffed it, pure and cold.

3 God wrought for man, mankind redeeming,  
When Christ was pierc'd by Roman spear,  
And, o'er the thirsty world down-streaming,  
Forth gushed a fountain, cool and clear,  
Till souls, those blessed waters near,  
Forgot in joy sin's desert drear.

4 Beside that well for aye abiding,  
New strength, new joy, new life I gain;  
Within that cleft securely hiding,  
No care can harm, no sorrow stain;  
Here rests the blissful soul serene,  
Here faith the healing draft can glean.

5 Lord, let my heart, this gift receiving,  
Sing one glad anthem to Thy praise;  
And may the stream, Thy pierc'd heart leaving,  
Refresh and heal me all my days:  
Thus by Thy blood my life restored,  
Eternal thanks to Thee, O Lord.

## Announcements

### Lenten Theme – The Suffering Savior In Scripture - *The road to Easter begins in Eden*

Wednesdays 6:30pm with Supper starting at 5:15 pm.

Ash Wednesday, Feb 18 “From the Heart”

Wednesday Feb 25 - “The First Promise of a Wounded Savior” –Genesis 3:4-15

Wednesday Mar 4 – “A Substitute on the Mountain” – Genesis 22:1-14

Wednesday Mar 11 - “The Blood That Saves” Exodus 12:1-13

Wednesday March 18 – “Psalms of the Suffering Righteous One” – Psalm 22

Wed March 25 - “The Servant Who Suffers For Us” - Isaiah 52:13–53:12

### Holy Week Services –

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m.**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Good Friday Worship at 6:30 p.m.**

**April 4<sup>th</sup> - No Saturday Evening Service**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m.**

**Women’s Bible Study** – The Monday night Women's Bible Class meets at church at 6:30 p.m. Contact Ruth for more information.

**Men’s Bible Study** – Men’s Bible study meets on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

**Fellowship** - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

**Choir** – The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, but this has switched to 7:30 during Lent. If you are interested in singing with the choir but don’t have time for the weekly rehearsals, please ask Klaudia or Julie about some of the easy-to-learn things in the works.

**Cleaning Schedule** – Help is needed to clean the sanctuary, narthex and gym. There is a sign-up sheet on the volunteer board if you are able to help out. Thank you!

**Budget Update** – We have updated the member-giving scorecard through the end of February. If you have any questions, please speak with church treasurer Phil Holz or church president Dave Paulsen.

<u>Member Giving Scorecard</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Target</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>
Member General Fund Giving	\$215,006	\$222,069	(\$7,063)	\$360,000
Estate Gift	\$42,200	\$0	\$42,200	\$0
School Deficit Reduction Giving Target	\$18,546	21,411	(\$2,865)	\$32,117
Hike for Heritage	\$17,517	\$0	\$17,517	\$0
Accrued Matching Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Member Giving</b>	<b>\$293,269</b>	<b>\$243,480</b>	<b>\$49,789</b>	<b>\$392,117</b>

**TLC** – The Ladies Connection will meet on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.



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