



**Good Friday
Choral Service of Darkness
April 7, 2023**

GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

About the Prelude

The melody used in the piece by Brahms is Hymn 221, "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded." It can be heard on solo reed stops played in the pedals while the bassline in the manuals insistently plays a heartbeat motive of repeating eight notes. Some of the text from the first verse of the hymn set by Bach is translated as, "O man, bewail your great sin for which Christ his Father's bosom left and came...to be sacrificed for us. He bore the heavy burden of our sins at length, indeed, upon the cross."

PRELUDE

Herzlich tut mich verlangen, Op. 122 no. 9

Johannes Brahms

O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß, BWV 622 J.S. Bach

SILENT PROCESSION

ANTHEM Alone to Sacrifice (Solus ad victimam) Paul Treppe

Alone to sacrifice you go this solemn day.

An offering to the Death you came to take away;
And we are guilty, Lord, guilty, what is there we can say?
Although the sin is ours, we know that you must pay.

Why did you choose to make your punishment so stern?

Lord, let us pity you, and suffer in return.
That this shared suffering, shared suffering our sole defence,
May earn the pardon and the peace for which we sinners yearn.

Allow us all to share your Passion and your pain,
And share the Glory too, in which you live and reign.
Although for two days more the anguish must remain,
When the third morning breaks, Lord let us laugh again.

*OPENING SENTENCES

Christ Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross *1 Pet. 2:24*
so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

Blessed is the name of the Lord.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Almighty God, look with mercy on your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ
was willing to be betrayed
and 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, now and forever. Amen.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and 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, now and forever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

(Old Testament, pages 683-684 in your pew Bible)

PSALM 22

Marty Haugen

Refrain



My God, my God, oh why have you a-ban-doned me?_

All who see me laugh at me,
they mock me and they shake their heads:
“He relied on the Lord, let the Lord be his refuge.” **Refrain**

As dogs around me, they circle me about.
Wounded me and pierced me, I can number all my bones. **Refrain**

My clothing they divided, for my garments casting lots,
Oh Lord do not desert me, but hasten to my aid. **Refrain**

I will praise you to my people, and proclaim you in their midst,
Oh, fear the Lord and praise God, give glory to God’s name. **Refrain**

The opening line here could equally well have been a courtier’s lament for a secret affair, but it soon becomes a path into a vivid and poignant reflection on Christ’s Passion. This 17th-century text is beautifully embraced by its sensitive and lyrical 20th-century tune. TEXT: Samuel Crossman, 1664; MUSIC: John Ireland, 1918.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:16-25

(New Testament, pages 224-225 in your pew Bible)

ANTHEM

Walk In Love

Michael Sitton

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Walk in love...

GOSPEL READING

John 18:1-19:42

(New Testament, pages 113-114 in your pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

Drop, Drop, Slow Tears

Philip W.J. Stopford

Drop, drop, slow tears;
and bathe those beauteous feet which
brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace:
cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Beloved people of God,
as Jesus stretched out his arms on the cross
to offer life and salvation to all,
let us pray for the world that God loves so much...

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(Silent prayer)*

As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Prayed in unison; see page 35 of the hymnal for text.)

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

Ecce lignum Crucis: This is the Wood of the Cross

John Edward Sittard

(The Congregation is invited to sing the Refrain)

Refrain:



Ecce lignum Crucis, in quo salus mundi pependit, pependit.

This is the wood of the Cross,
on which hung the Savior of the world. **Refrain**

The royal banners forward go,
The cross shines forth in mystic glow.
Where he through whom our flesh was made,
In that same flesh our ransom paid.

This is the wood of the Cross,
on which hung the Savior of the world. **Refrain**

O tree of glory tree most fair,
Ordained those holy limbs to bear,
How bright in royal robe it stood
The purple of a Savior's blood.
This is the wood of the Cross,
on which hung the Savior of the world. **Refrain**

Ecce lignum Crucis.

THE TRISAGION

Spoken by Leader only:

O my people, o my church,
what more could I have done for you? Answer me!

**Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

***HYMN 223** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross HAMBURG

BENEDICTION

SILENT RECESSION

(Please depart the Sanctuary in silence.)

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

About Hymn 223

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watt's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant. TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1707; MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824.

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OUR MISSION

*Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light
found in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

TODAY@ WESTMINSTER

Worship Leaders

Worship Leader

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake
Pastor and Head of Staff

Music

Julius Tabery, cantor; Westminster Choir

Dr. John Semingson
Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell
*Organist and Associate Director of Music
Ministries*

About Good Friday

Good Friday proclaims the good news of salvation through the paradoxical suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Solemn Intercession, we join Jesus’ prayer for the church and world, as he reaches out with compassion from the cross. While the historical remembrance dimension may well give the service a somber feel, this interpretive dimension should not lead people to be sad. Sincere wonder and gratitude are more appropriate responses. Worshipers gather not only to remember the suffering of the dying Savior, but also to rejoice in the purposes of God, who wills to redeem his children, and to offer profound gratitude for God’s greatest gift.

My Song Is Love Unknown 209

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

be. O who am I that for my sake my
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fering goes, that
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.