

INSTRUMENTS OF THE PASSION:

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THE VIA DOLOROSA



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Pastor Michael Foley**

Worship Service

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent 3

Evening Prayer Vespers

OPENING HYMN: # 387 “Drawn to the Cross”

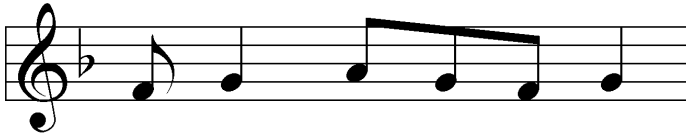
♪ **Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in you my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**How well you know my griefs and fears,
Your grace abused, my misspent years;
So now to you with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing through your cross and pain,
Christ crucified, I come.**

Please stand for last verse:

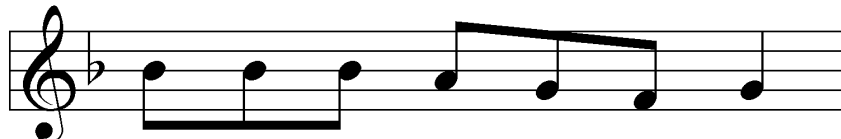
**To pledge my labor willingly,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.**



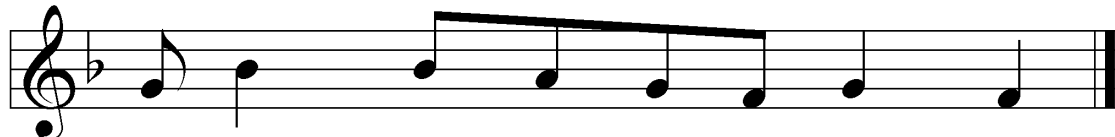
M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



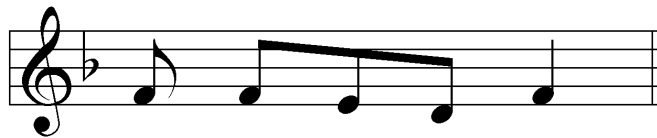
M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C:** Amen.

Please be seated.



C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift-ing
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PSALM 32

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone



*

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,*
whose sins are covered.

When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;*
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you*
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”*
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Refrain

You are my hiding place;*
you will protect me from trouble.

Many are the woes of the wicked,*
but the LORD’S unfailing love surrounds those who trust in
him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

M: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe
your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may
live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PASSION READING 3 - BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST

Minister: They brought Jesus first to Annas, who was the father-in-law
of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Simon Peter and another disciple

were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there, and brought Peter in. It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

MINISTER: When Jesus had said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. He demanded, "Is that any way to answer the high priest?" Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "If I said something wrong, testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?"

MINISTER: Then Annas had Jesus sent, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Finally, two came forward and declared,

CONGREGATION: "We heard him say, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days. I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'"

MINISTER: Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "Yes, it is as you say. But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

MINISTER: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him, and struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" They said many other insulting things to him and the guards took him and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him and said,

WOMEN: "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus. Are you not one of this man's disciples?"

MINISTER: But he denied it before them all,

MEN: "I don't know or understand what you're talking about."

MINISTER: Then he went out to the gateway. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around,

WOMEN: "This fellow is one of them."

MINISTER: Again he denied it, with an oath,

MEN: "I don't know the man!"

MINISTER: About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" Then Peter began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them,

MEN: "I don't know what you're talking about."

MINISTER: Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

Very early in the morning, the chief priests with the elders, the teachers of the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood." They replied,

CONGREGATION: "What is that to us? That's your responsibility."

MINISTER: So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said,

CONGREGATION: "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money."

MINISTER: So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

CONGREGATION: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

HYMN # 100 (vv. 1-3) “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

♪ **A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, Our guilt and evil 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 says, “Willing all this I suffer.”**

**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 said,
“And free my children from their dread
Of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by your passion they will share
The fruit of your salvation.”**

**“Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
I’ll bear what you command me.
My will conforms to your decree;
I’ll do what you have asked me.”
O wondrous Love, what have you done!
The Father offers up his Son,
Desiring our salvation. O Love, how strong you are to save!
You make his bed within the grave
Who built the earth’s foundation.**

MESSAGE: Mark 15:21

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

Hymn: # 473 (1,4) “Savior, I Follow On”

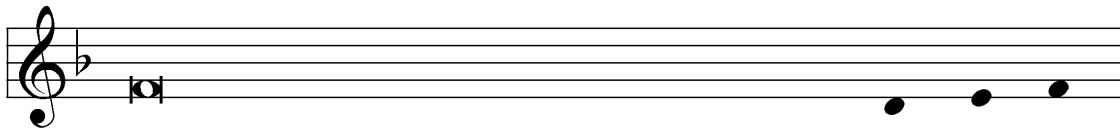
♪ **Savior, I follow on, Guided by thee,
Seeing not yet the hand That leadeth me.**

**Hushed be my heart and still; Fear I no further ill.
Only to meet thy will My will shall be**

**Savior, I long to walk Closer with thee;
Led by thy guiding hand, Ever to be
Constantly near thy side, Quickened and purified,
Living for him who died Freely for me.**

OFFERING

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



M: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: Thanks be to God.

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



C: A - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part



ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen



your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry



peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: # 588: 2,5,6,7 “Abide with Me”

♪ **Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me!**

**I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!**

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**

