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INSTRUMENTS OF THE PASSION:



THE SIGN ON THE CROSS



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Worship Service

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent 4

Evening Prayer

Vespers

OPENING HYMN: # 108 “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

♪ **Jesus, Refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above,
Oh, how oft your eyes, offended, Gaze upon a sinner’s fall!
Yet, upon the cross extended, You endured the pain of all.**

**Dare we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
As we see you wounded, bleeding,
See your thorn-encircled brow?
Since your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest,
Only what your grace has taught us
Calms the sinner’s deep distress.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for you!
May our eyes be ever turning To behold your cross anew,
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified!**



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



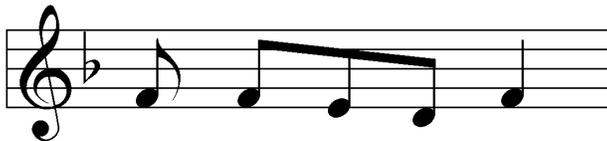
C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



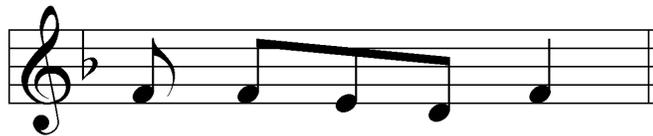
M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



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.

Why do the nations conspire*
and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers
gather together against the LORD*
and against his Anointed One.

Refrain

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;*
the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,*
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:*
He said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”

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 4 - ON TRIAL BEFORE PILATE

MINISTER: The Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace. They wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" They replied,

CONGREGATION: "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

MINISTER: Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews objected,

CONGREGATION: "But we have no right to execute anyone."

MINISTER: This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. Then the chief priests and elders began to accuse him, saying,

CONGREGATION: "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

MINISTER: Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus asked, "Is that your idea, or did others talk to you about me?"

Pilate replied, "Am I a Jew? It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out to the Jews, and announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." The Jews insisted,

CONGREGATION: "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

MINISTER: 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 would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

MINISTER: From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jews insisted,

CONGREGATION: "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

MINISTER: On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.

CONGREGATION: That day Herod and Pilate became friends - before this they had been enemies.

MINISTER: 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."

MEN: Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.

MINISTER: So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "It is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message:

WOMEN: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

MINISTER: But the chief priests and the elders stirred up the crowd and persuaded them to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

HYMN # 117 (vv. 14,7) "O Dearest Jesus"

♪ **O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession—
What dark transgression?**

**What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that love to wander;
The Master pays the debt his servants owe him,
Who would not know him.**

**And when, dear Lord, before your throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns your saints forever raise you,
I too shall praise you.**

MESSAGE: John 19:19-22

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.** ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

Hymn: # 351 “Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus”

**♪ Hail, O once-despised Jesus! Hail, O Galilean King!
You have suffered to release us,
Hope to give and peace to bring.
Hail, O universal Savior, Bearer of our sin and shame;
By your merits we find favor; Life is given through your name.**

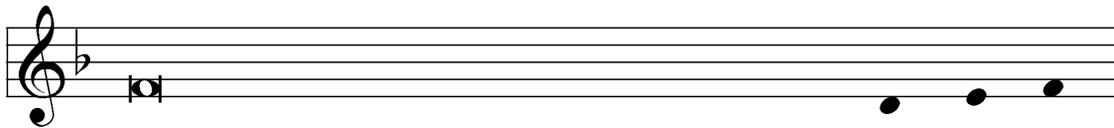
**Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on you were laid;
By almighty love anointed, You have full atonement made.
Ev’ry sin has been forgiven Through the power of your blood;
Open is the gate of heaven; We are reconciled to God.**

**Jesus, heav’nly hosts adore you, Seated at your Father’s side.
Crucified this world once saw you; Now in glory you abide.
There for sinners you are pleading,
And our place you now prepare,
Ever for us interceding Till in glory we appear.**

**Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing
You are worthy to receive;
Loudest praises, without ceasing, Right it is for us to give.
Help, O bright angelic spirits, All your noblest anthems raise;
Help to sing our Savior's merits;
Help to chant Immanuel's praise.**

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: # 593 “Now the Light Has Gone Away”

♪ **Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,
Asking you to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.**

**Jesus, Savior, wash away All that I’ve done wrong today.
Make me ever more like you, Good and gentle, kind and true.**

**Let my near and dear ones be Safe with you eternally.
Oh, bring me and all I love To your happy home above.**

**Now my evening praise I give; You once died that I might live.
All your precious gifts are free—Oh, how good you are to me!**

**Ah, my best and kindest Friend, You will love me to the end.
Let me love you more and more, Always better than before.**

