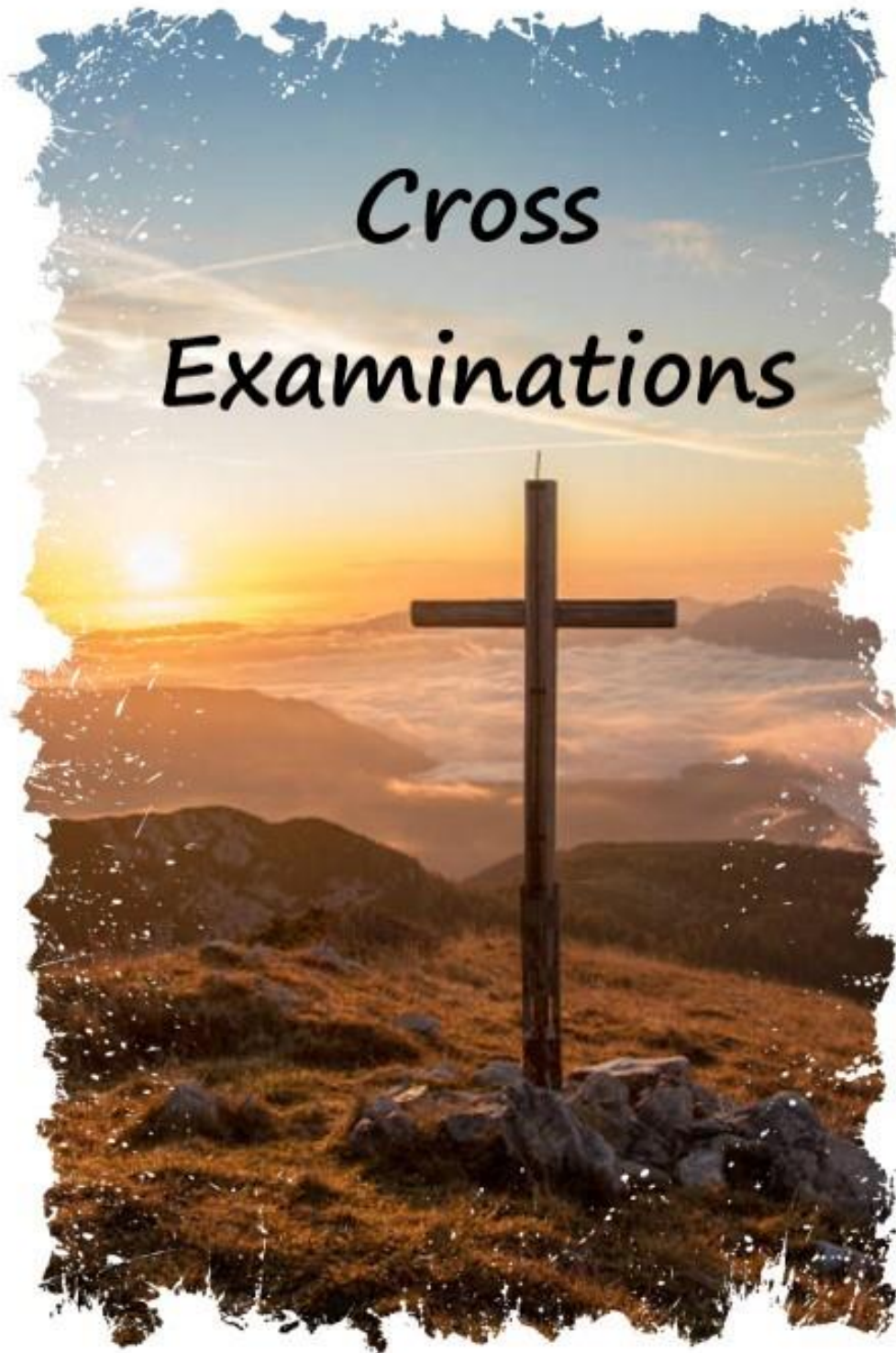


# Cross Examinations



*Wednesday, March 22, 2023*

*Lent - Week Four*

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Wednesday, March 22, 2023**  
**Lent – Week Four**  
**“What Is Missing in Christ’s Sufferings”**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**

**Information for the hearing impaired:** Are you having difficulty hearing what is being said during our worship service? If so, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.



# **Welcome**

## **Call to Worship**

Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, in spite of the shame.

**Savior, thy dying love thou gavest me,  
Nor should I aught withhold, dear Lord, from thee:  
In love my soul would bow,  
My heart fulfill its vow,  
Some off'ring bring thee now,  
Something for thee.**

God forbid that I should glory, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

**At the blest mercy seat, pleading for me,  
My feeble faith looks up, Jesus, to thee:  
Help me the cross to bear,  
Thy wondrous love declare,  
Some song to raise, or prayer,  
Something for thee.**

Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

**Give me a faithful heart, likeness to thee,  
That each departing day henceforth may see  
Some work of love begun,  
Some deed of kindness done,  
Some wand'rer sought and won,  
Something for thee.**

And Jesus said to all, "If any would come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their crosses, and follow me."

**All that I am and have, thy gifts so free,  
In joy, in grief, thro' life, dear Lord, for thee!  
And when thy face I see,  
My ransomed soul shall be,  
Through all eternity,  
Something for thee!**

## **Moments for Meditation**

*Pause for meditation.*

**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!**

## **Prayer of the Day**

God of compassion, You welcome the wayward, and You embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# Scripture Lessons

## Epistle Reading

## Philippians 3:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. <sup>16</sup>Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

## A Responsive Reflection based on Isaiah 53:7-9

He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly;

**he never said a word.**

Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared,

**he never said a word.**

He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate.

**He was put to death for the sins of our people.**

He was placed in a grave with evil men, he was buried with the rich,  
**even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 5:3-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

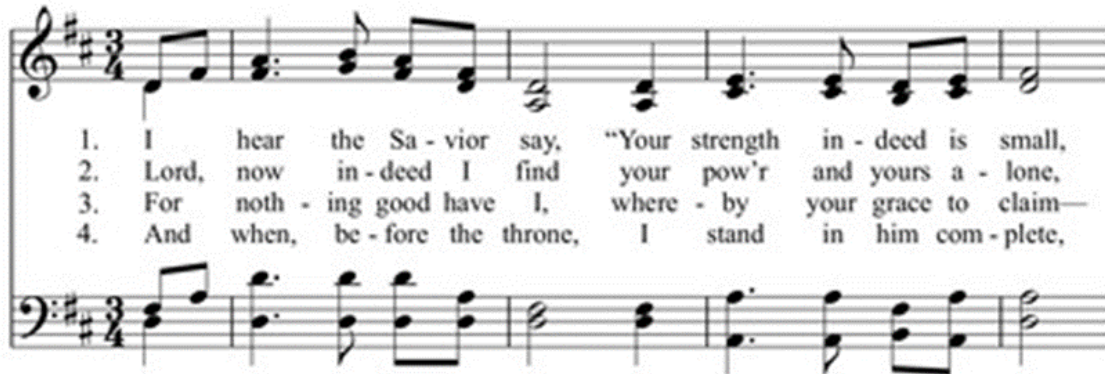
*Please be seated.*

# Cross Examinations

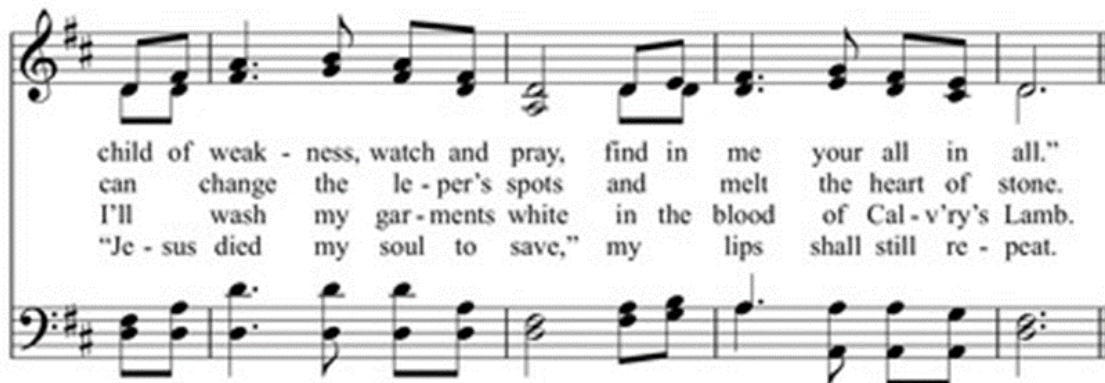
“What Is Missing in Christ’s Sufferings”

## Hymn

### Jesus Paid It All



1. I hear the Sa - vior say, “Your strength in - deed is small,  
2. Lord, now in - deed I find your pow’r and yours a - lone,  
3. For noth - ing good have I, where - by your grace to claim—  
4. And when, be - fore the throne, I stand in him com - plete,



child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me your all in all.”  
can change the le - per’s spots and melt the heart of stone.  
I’ll wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v’ry’s Lamb.  
“Je - sus died my soul to save,” my lips shall still re - peat.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;



sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.

## Responsive Prayer

Whenever we are poor in spirit, longing for the kingdom of heaven,

**let your blessing be known, O Lord.**

Wherever there is mourning, needing comfort,

**let your blessing be known, O Lord.**

And let the meek begin to see the inheritance that shall be theirs, and ours;

**let your blessing be known, O Lord.**

Oh, make us merciful, we pray,

**that we may obtain mercy.**

Make us pure in heart,

**that we may see God.**

Make us instruments of peace,

**that we may be called your children.**

Even when we are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, because the kingdom of heaven is ours,

**let your blessing be known, O Lord.**

When men revile and persecute, and utter evil falsely on account of Jesus Christ,



**let your blessing be known, O Lord.**

Give us, and all who bear the cross, the joy and gladness which your prophets and apostles knew, the joy of great reward awaiting us.

**let your eternal blessing give us peace! Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Benediction**

God, the Giver of love, Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

*You may leave in silence.*

## **Offering**

*You may drop your offering in the basket on your way out.*

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Edward Lewis and  
Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson

**Reader**

Karen Crawford

**Organist/Director of Music**

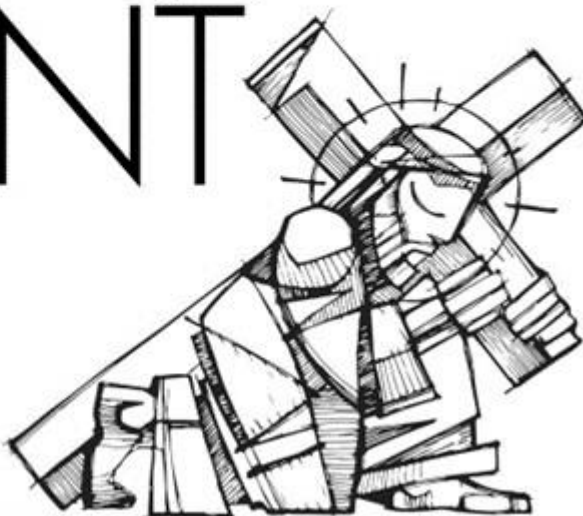
Donna Olsen

**Audio**

Tim Cotter, Mark Major

**ABSENCE OF FLOWERS.** There are no flowers displayed in the church during Lent, therefore, no flower signup sheet. If you would like to dedicate the bulletin to someone in place of flowers, the suggested donation is \$10.00. The bulletins would then be in honor or memory of that person. *Please call or stop by the office with your request, 352-597-1456.*

TAKING UP  
*something for*  
LENT





## **An Invitation to a Holy Lent**

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when sinners who had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

You are invited, therefore, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Working as a supportive family of faith to extend God's gracious welcome through worship, community service, and spiritual growth opportunities.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.

## **OUR VALUES STATEMENT**

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ. We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a Fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ.

In this fellowship, there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability, or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

### **NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.