

March 29, 2024 6:00 PM

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Good Friday March 29, 2024, 6:00 pm Reverend Giuseppe Mattei



INTRODUCTION

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand as you are able, but feel free to sit at any time.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Confident of the hope received by the death of Christ, we bring our hearts – broken, stained with sin, filled with failings – to the One who sprinkles them with grace, cleansing them with the waters of life.

Like little children who can wander off in a crowded store, we have lost our way, God of the hope of our return. We betray You when we do not befriend the poor. We deny You when we are afraid to speak up for the voiceless. We turn our backs on You when we do not do good for others. We crucify You when we harm our family and friends.

At the foot of the cross, we stand with all who have forgotten You and forsaken the way which You offer to us.

Forgive us, Lamb of God, and fill us with the mercy, the hope, and the grace You poured out for us, as You gave your life for the sins of the world.

Meditative silence is kept.

Christ has lifted our suffering onto his shoulders, carrying all our hurts and rejections into God's heart so that we may be restored to hope and live as new people.

Fed with grace, carried in God's arms, we know that we are forgiven.

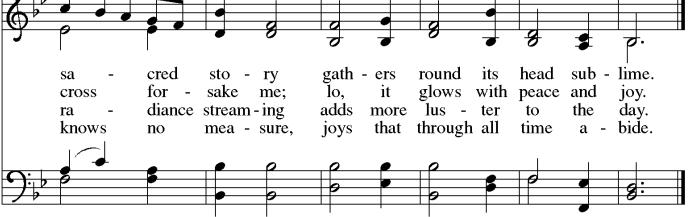
Thanks be to God! Amen.

OPENING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

324

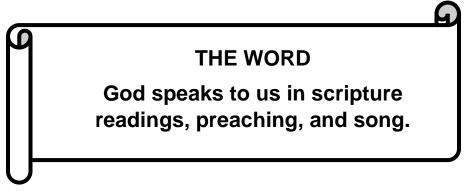




PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God... one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.



A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Reader: Pat Squires

52:13-53:12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 37:1-9

¹ Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

- ² for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.
- ³ Trust in the LORD AND do good; so you will live in the land and enjoy security.
- ⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
- ⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- ⁷Be still before the LORD AND wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

⁸ Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:1-19:42

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to You, O Lord.

Please be seated.

⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

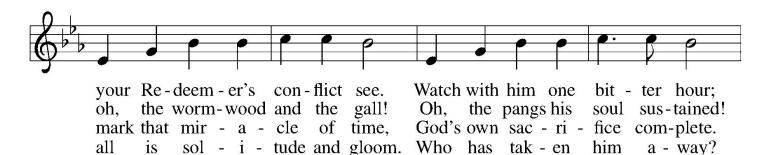
347, v. 1

¹Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.



- 1 Go to dark Geth-sem a ne, all who feel the tempt er's pow'r;
- 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar raigned;
- 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a dor ing at his feet,
- 4 Ear ly has ten to the tomb where they laid his breath less clay;





turn not from his griefs a - way; Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. learn from Je - sus Christ to pray. learn from him to bear the cross. learn from Je - sus Christ to die. Say - ior, teach us so to rise.

¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So, the

other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

347, v. 2



- 1 Go to dark Geth-sem a ne, all who feel the tempt er's pow'r;
- 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
- 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a dor ing at his feet,
- 4 Ear ly has ten to the tomb where they laid his breath less clay;



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. oh, the worm-wood and the gall! mark that mir - a - cle of time, all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

Watch with him one bit - ter hour; Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained! God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. learn from Je - sus Christ to pray. learn from him to bear the cross. learn from Je - sus Christ to die. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

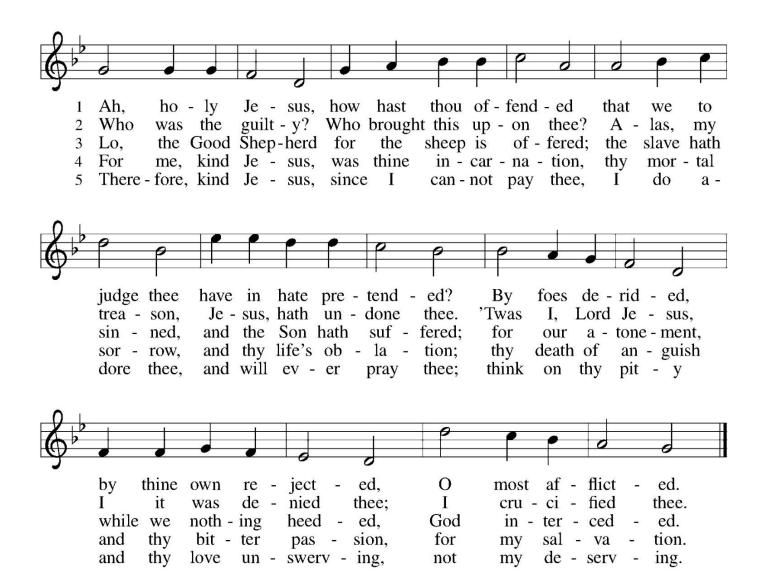
¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

349, vv. 1-2



²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

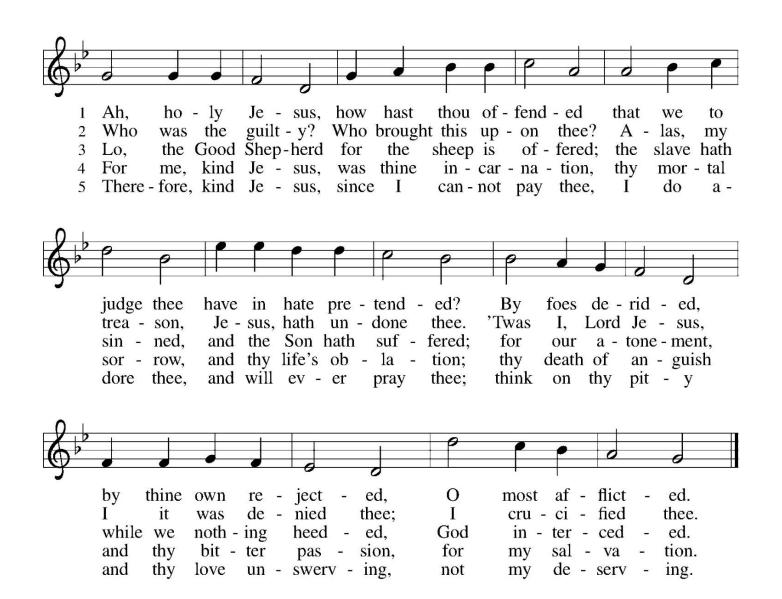
³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

349, vv. 3-5



After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

^{19:1}Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."



⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

347, v. 3



- 1 Go to dark Geth-sem a ne, all who feel the tempt er's pow'r;
- 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar raigned;
- 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a dor ing at his feet,
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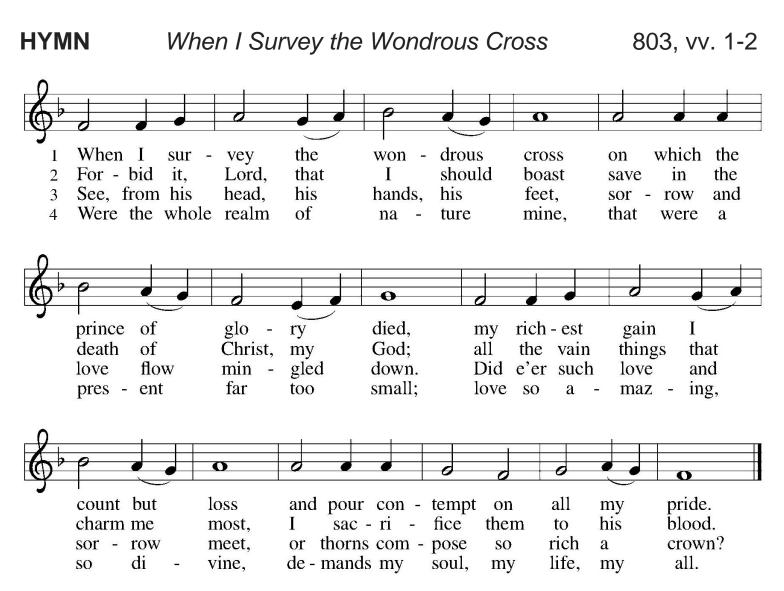
him

a - way?

So, they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

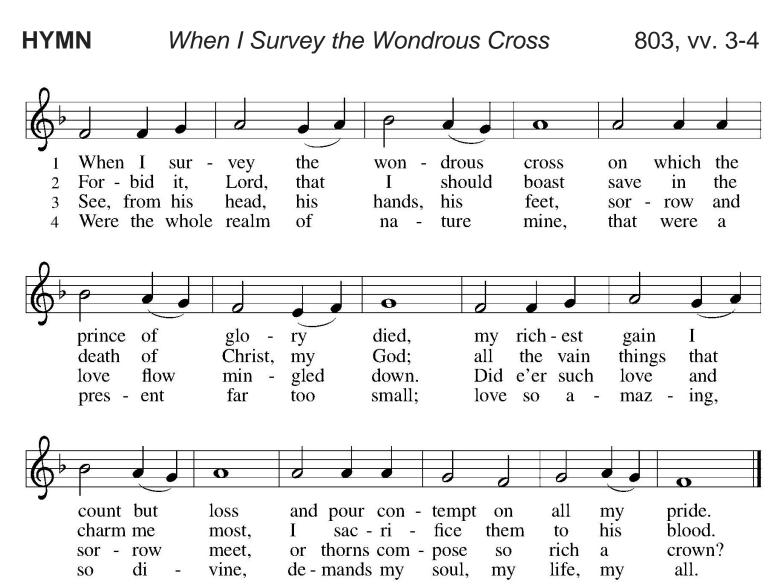
²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his

tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." **This was to fulfill what the scripture says,** "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.



Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers

came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so, he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden, there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

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- 1 Let us ev er walk with Je sus, fol low his ex am ple pure,
- 2 Let us suf fer here with Je sus, and with pa-tience bear our cross.
- 3 Let us glad ly die with Je sus. Since by death he con-quered death,
- 4 Let us al so live with Je sus. He has ris en from the dead



through a world that would de-ceive us and our spir - its lure. to sin will fol - low all our sad-ness; where he is there is no loss. im - mor - tal breath. he us from de-struc-tion, give to us that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot-steps tread-ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove, Though to - day we sow no laugh-ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy: Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin; we are your own liv - ing mem-bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, all dis-com-forts that an - noy and the grave that shuts us in in your pres-ence con-stant-ly, let us do our Sav-ior's bid-ding. shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. shall but prove the gate of heav-en. liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



be;

Faith-ful Lord, with me a - bide; Je - sus, here I share your woe; Je - sus, here with you I die,

me faith - ful

I shall fol - low where you guide. help me there your joy to know. there to live with you on high. life e - ter - nal grant to me.

BIDDING PRAYER

Je - sus, let

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church throughout the world.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for Elizabeth and Pedro our bishops, for Giuseppe our pastor, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Brief Silence

Almighty and eternal God.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask. (Silence)

Please stand as you are able.

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 be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC Were You There?

African American Spiritual Duet: Janet & Todd Holly

GOD SURRENDERS TO US IN LOVE

We acknowledge before God all our words spoken in anger, all our deeds of pride and selfishness, and all the good we have not done. We write on paper all that has separated us from one another, from God, and from God's creation and for which we ask for pardon and healing. We, then, place our note at the foot of the cross.

PRAYER AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world. **Oh, come, let us worship him.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.

May God be merciful and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

May God give us blessing and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe. We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.

ALL LEAVE THE SANCTUARY IN SILENCE.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister
Scripture Readings
Music Director
AV Director
Altar Guild
Graphics

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei Pat Squires Donna Olsen Art Alt

Janet Jones, Robert Rios, & Noel Prettyman Diane Alt, Linda Rizzo, & Ed Lewis



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

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