



April 18, 2025
6:00 PM

**Jesus' Final Hours –
A Tenebrae Service**

OUR VALUES STATEMENT:

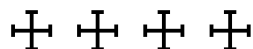
We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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). Therefore, we welcome all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions; and work to promote anti-racism. (Adopted 4/6/25)

VISION STATEMENT:

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



The Liturgy is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Are you hearing impaired? If you are having difficulty hearing our worship service, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.



INTRODUCTION

During this service in seven scenes, you are invited to imagine what Jesus was feeling before he died and wrestle with your own feelings. Each “scene” represents an event from Christ’s final hours.

Listen – Meditate – Lament – Confess – Pray.

The Tenebrae service is a somber event.

THE GATHERING

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

GATHERING WORDS

All you who pass this way
look and see the shadow of sin.

All you who pass this way
look and see the weight of the world.

All you who pass this way
look and see the suffering of our Savior.

All you who pass this way
look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ.

(based on Lamentations 1:12)

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 12:10-11
Reader: Gary Kopitzke

A moment of personal reflection.

HYMN

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

ELW 751
3x



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

SCENE 1: JESUS PRAYS AT GETHSEMANE

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:39-46
Reader: Leonore Kopitzke

Personal Reflection:

Have I ever been in a position where God was calling me to do something that I did not want to do? Would I be willing to lay down my life for another? Spend some time in prayer around these questions.

1st Candle is Snuffed

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW 347



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. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

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

Please be seated.

SCENE 2: JESUS IS ARRESTED

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:47-53

Reader: Gary Kopitzke

Personal Reflection:

Reflect on a moment when you have betrayed Jesus or when you were betrayed by someone you love.

2nd Candel is Snuffed

[illegible]

SCENE 3: PETER DISOWNS JESUS

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:54-62

Reader: Leonore Kopitzke

Personal Reflection:

Reflect on a time when you gave in to peer pressure and disowned Jesus.

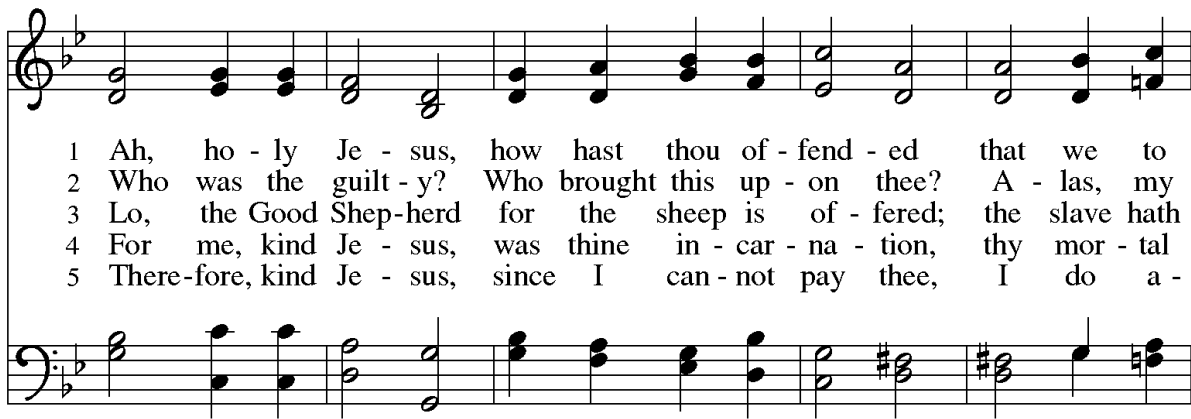
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Please stand as you are able.

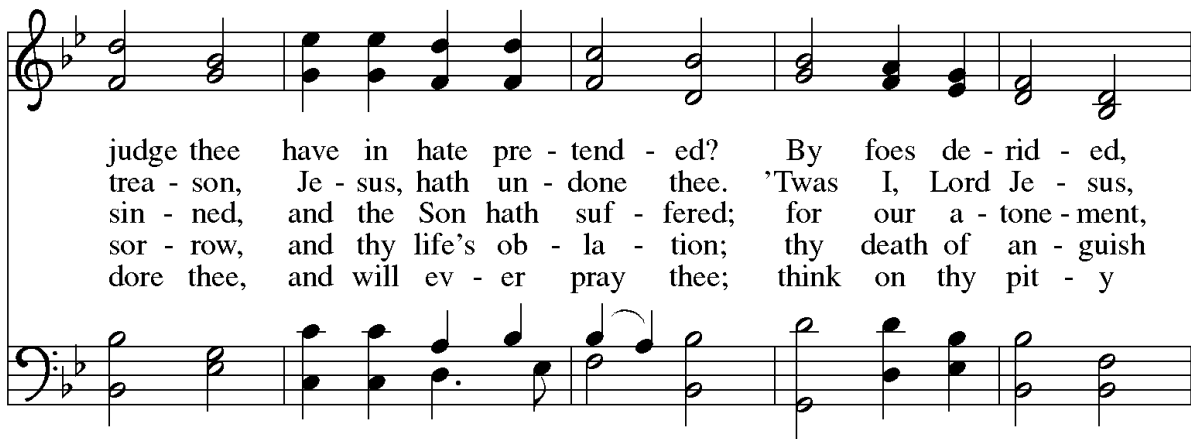
HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

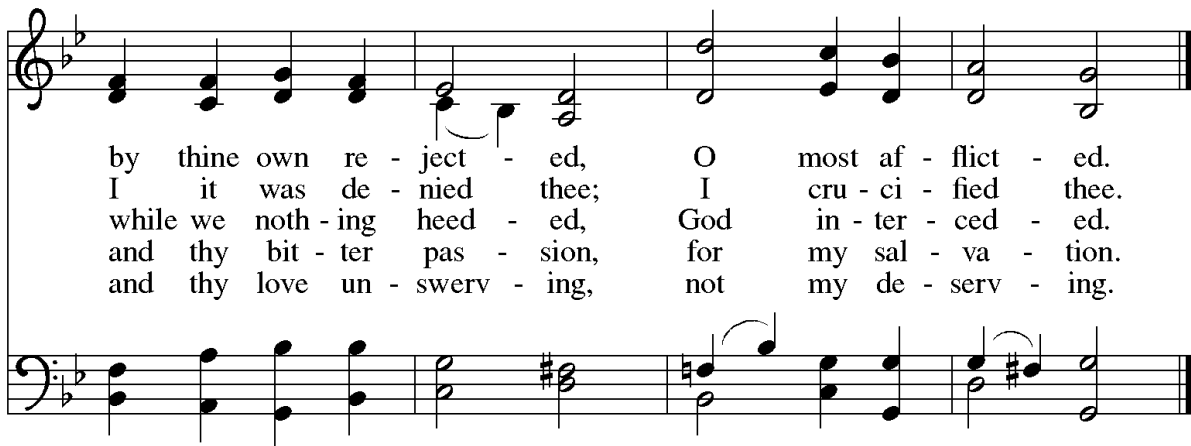
ELW 349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Please be seated.

SCENE 4: JESUS STANDS BEFORE PILATE AND HEROD

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:66–23:25
 Reader: Gary Kopitzke

Personal Reflection:

It's easy to assume we would not have acted the way the crowd did in this passage. But when we're angry, we often make choices we regret. And when we express our anger in a group setting, our feelings can build on each other. Have you ever judged someone unfairly because you were angry? How have your actions impacted other people when you've been angry? Ask God to help you to see people as reflections of Christ.

4th Candle is Snuffed

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW 336

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain
sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God. God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Please be seated.

SCENE 5: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:26-43

Reader: Leonore Kopitzke

Personal Reflection:

We have all sinned. It was our sin that held Jesus to the cross. Because of our sin, Jesus gave his life as a willing sacrifice so that we may have forgiveness and eternal life. Meditate on that.

When ready, write your name on a piece of paper, then place it at the foot of the cross: that is your sin in Jesus on the cross! Light a votive candle and say a silent prayer. Then, return to your seat.

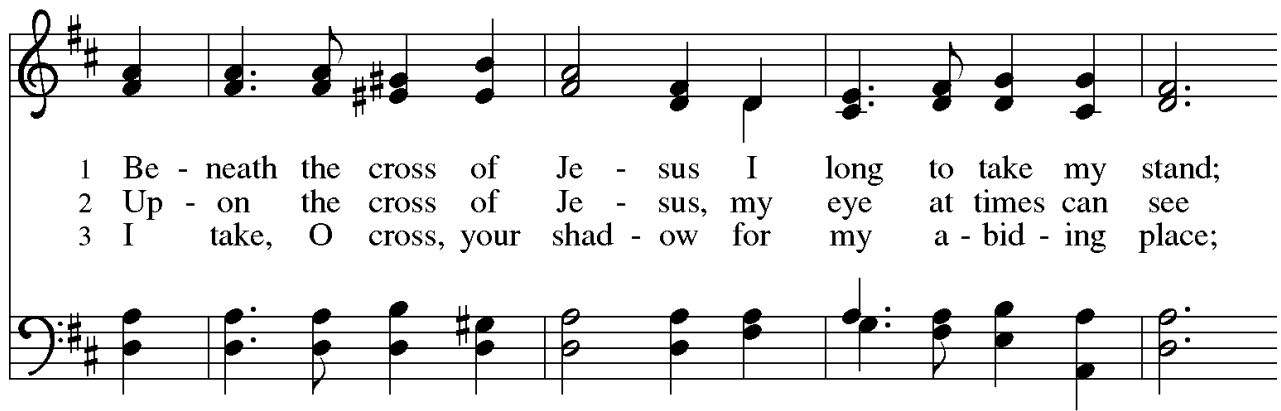
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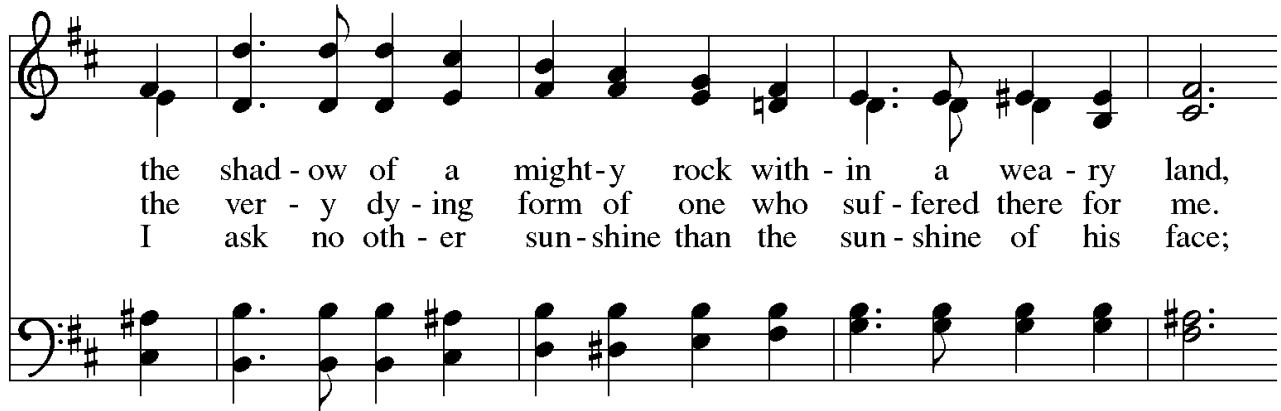
HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

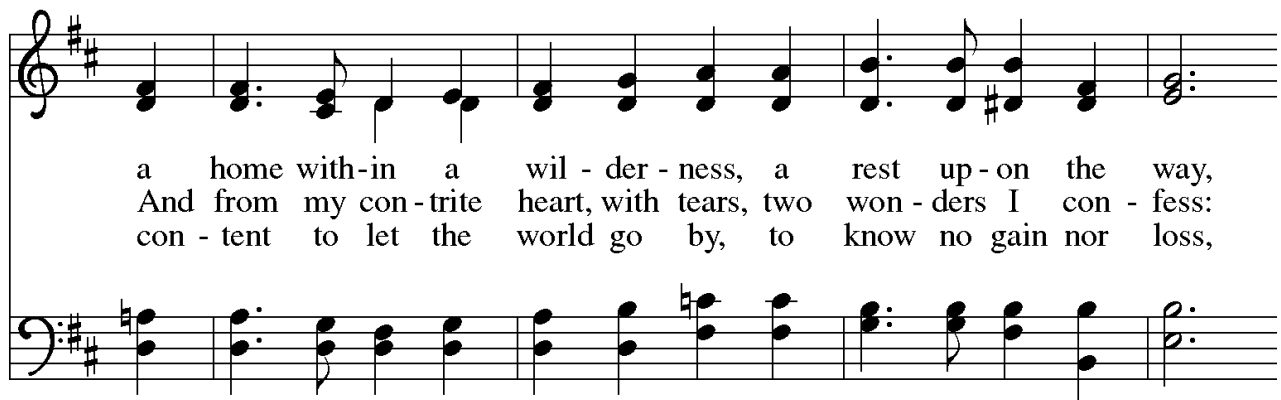
ELW 338



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see;
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Please be seated.

SCENE 6: JESUS DIES

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:44-49

Reader: Gary Kopitzke

Personal Reflection:

Consider his death: what does it mean to you? For you?


6th Candle is Snuffed

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

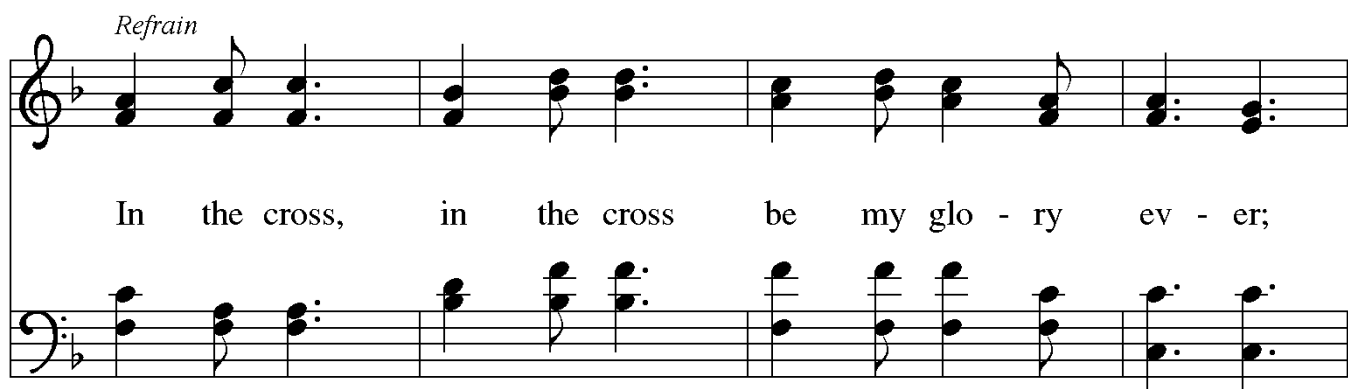


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Please be seated.

SCENE 7: JESUS IS BURIED

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:50-56

Reader: Leonore Kopitzke

Personal Reflection:

Remember that this is not the end of the story! As believers, we do not disperse in fear and anguish but leave by the same faith that sustained Jesus to the end.

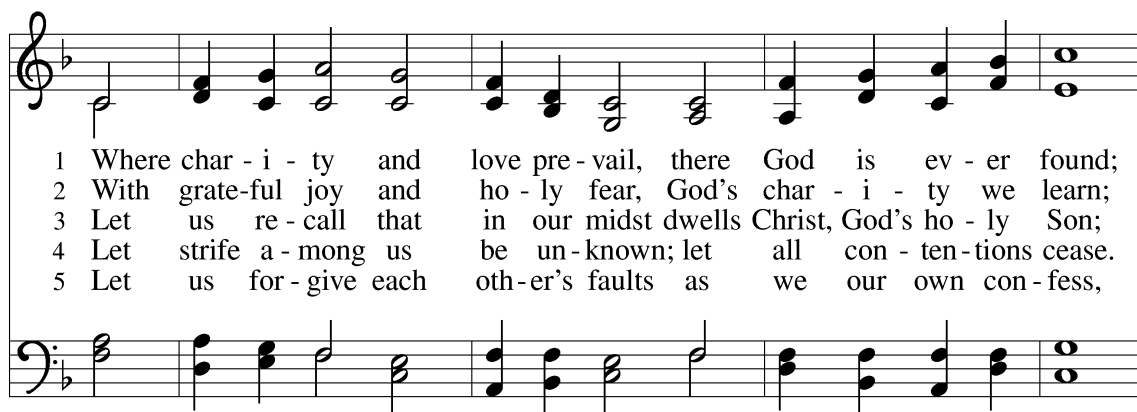
7th Candle is Snuffed

Please stand as you are able.

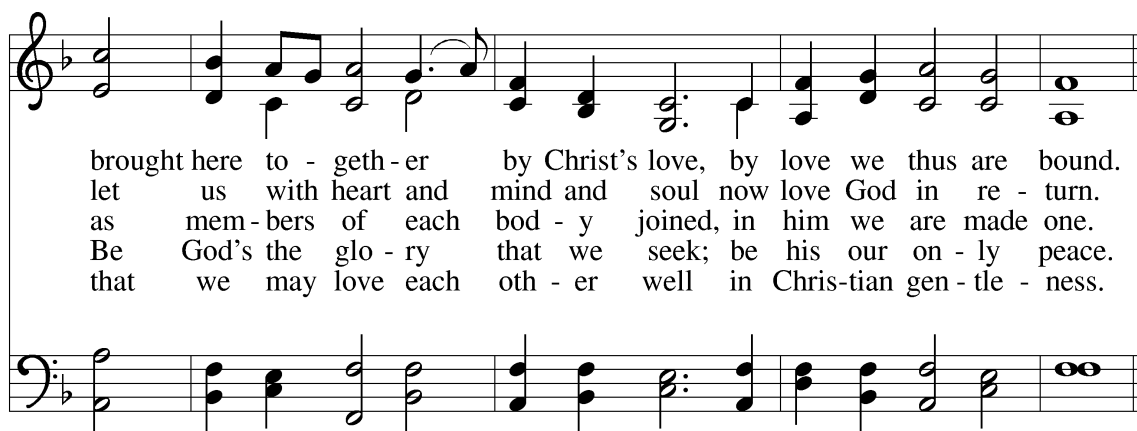
HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Sacred 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.

Reading: Mystery of All Mysteries – Cinthia Bourgeault, The Wisdom of Jesus.

Sacred Silence.

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because, by your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

Leave in silence when ready.



Presiding Minister	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Scripture Readers	Leonore & Gary Kopitzke
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Bell Choir Directors	Janet & Todd Holly
Altar Guild	Suzanne Chelf & Pat Squires
AV Director	Art Alt
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
Audio	Pat Squires
Cameras	Tim Cotter & Mark Major
Graphics	Diane Alt, Francesca Bugini, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page

**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

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.

