

# Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 11, 2026



Conversations at the Foot of the Cross

Pastor Erik Allen



**Conversations at the Foot of the Cross**  
**-- Malchus and Mark --**

**Prelude**

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

Keith Kolander

**Call to Worship**

P Remember Jesus Christ,

C **risen from the dead, descended from David.**

P If we have died with him,

C **we shall also live with him;**

P if we endure,

C **we shall also reign with him.**

P If we are faithless,

C **he remains faithful--for he cannot deny himself.**

P The Son of Man came not to be served,

C **but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**

**Hymn**

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

ELW 337

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
and did my sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head  
for sinners such as I?**

**Was it for sins that I had done  
he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
and love beyond degree!**

**Well might the sun in darkness hide  
and shut its glories in  
when God, the mighty maker, died  
for his own creatures' sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face  
while his dear cross appears,  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
and melt my eyes to tears.**

**But tears of grief cannot repay  
the debt of love I owe;  
here, Lord, I give myself away:  
'tis all that I can do.**

## **Psalm 115**

P Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,  
C **for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.**

P Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"  
C **Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases.**

P Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.  
C **They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears,  
but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel;  
feet, but do not walk; they make no sound in their throats.**

P Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them.  
C **O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. O house of  
Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. You who fear  
the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.**

P The LORD has been mindful of us; he will bless us;  
C **he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;**

P he will bless those who fear the LORD,  
C **both small and great.**

## **Reading**

Mark 15:16-39

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

## Hymn

The Voices of the Passion

*Tune: (O Sacred Head Now Wounded)*

**The voices of the Passion,  
Those words from ancient days--  
What message do they fashion  
As on your cross I gaze?  
In words that once were spoken,  
In speech now overheard,  
Grant me, O Lord, this token:  
To hear your living Word!**

## Overheard: Simon and the Centurion

*Hank Starkey and Robert Sanchez*

The Voices of the Passion

*Tune: (O Sacred Head Now Wounded)*

**When days are long and dreary  
With dull and dread routine,  
Lord, let me not grow weary,  
But let my faith be seen.**

**Help me my cross to carry,  
To labor faithfully;  
And show me, when I tarry,  
The cross you bore for me.**

## **Prayers**

P What will you have us do, O Lord? What will YOU have us do?

C **Too long and too often we have flaunted our own wills, pursued our own desires, desired our own pursuits, and said, “Not thy will, but mine, O Lord, be done.”**

P Yes, even as we prayed (or failed to) and went our own rebellious way,

C **Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, took up the cross, according to your will--the cross of our rebellion and our sin--and went the way of death in our behalf.**

P What will you have US do, O Lord? What now is your will for us for whom your Son obeyed your will and died?

C **What crosses shall we carry as we follow him? What tasks shall we perform? What mission, what assignment, what JOB awaits for us to shoulder and endure?**

P Give us the strength, O God, to bear whatever cross your love bestows.

C **And give us, too, the will to bear our crosses willingly; in freedom, joy, and firm resolve to say (and mean it when we do), “Not my will, but THINE, O Lord, be done”--be DONE ... not merely talked about, but DONE.**

P through Christ our Lord, through whom we dare to pray:

C **Our Father ...**

## **Benediction**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

ELW 325

**I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me**

## Postlude

“I Want Jesus To Walk With Me”

Rachel Chapin

*Special thanks to Hank Starkey and Robert Sanchez  
for participating in this evening's worship.*

