

Mid-Week Lenten Service

February 25, 2026



Conversations at the Foot of the Cross

Pastor Erik Allen

Conversations at the Foot of the Cross

-- Malchus and Mark --

Prelude

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

Keith Kolander

Call to Worship

P In those days, and in that time, says the Lord, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come;

C **and they shall seek the Lord their God.**

P They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying,

C **“Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant which will never be forgotten.”**

P As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

C **that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**

Hymn

Healer of Our Every Ill
(vs 2 & 3)

ELW 612

Refrain

**Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain***

**Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain***

Psalm 142

P I call to the Lord for help, I plead with him.

C **I bring him all my complaints; I tell him all my troubles. When I am ready to give up, he knows what I should do.**

P In the path where I walk, my enemies have hidden a trap for me.

C **I look beside me and I see that there is no one to help me; there is no one to protect me; no one cares for me.**

P Lord, I cry to you for help;
C **You, Lord, are my protector; you are all I want in this life.**

P Listen to my cry for help, because I am sunk in despair.
C **Save me from my enemies, who are much stronger than I am.**

P Rescue me from my trouble;
C **then in the meeting of your people I will praise you, because you have been good to me.**

Reading

Mark 14:26-52

²⁶ When they had sung the hymn, [Jesus and the disciples] went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’”

²⁸ “But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ²⁹ Peter said to him, “Even though all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰ Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹ But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴ And he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” ³⁵ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want.” ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?” ³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴³ Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived, and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then

they laid hands on him and arrested him. 47 But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 48 Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? 49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.” 50 All of them deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

Hymn

The Voices of the Passion

Tune: (O Sacred Head Now Wounded) Herzlich Tut Mich 76 76 D

**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: Malchus and Mark

Mark Gagen & Jeff Boldt

The Voices of the Passion

Tune: (O Sacred Head Now Wounded) Herzlich Tut Mich 76 76 D

**Lord, when with fears I'm stricken
To drive me from your sight,
My faith, O Savior, quicken
To know your saving might.
What blessing I inherit
when standing at your side:
Your righteousness and merit
My nakedness to hide!**

Prayers

- P O Lord, how shall we stand before you in the nakedness of our sin, our guilt, our shame?
- C **How shall we stand, save robed in the righteousness of your righteous Son, our Savior, Jesus the Messiah?**

P And how shall we know his righteousness made ours unless you speak to us, opening our ears and healing our hearing by the power of your sanctifying Spirit,

C **that hearing, we may believe; and believing we may follow; and in following we may not be ashamed.**

P Work in us, O God, the miracle of healing faith,

C **faith in him whose blood was spilled to forgive us even when we fail and flee; faith in the forgiving love that returns us once again to the hard and pleasant paths of righteousness,**

P in Christ our Lord, by whom we 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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

**Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.**

**The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.**

**We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**

**Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.**

Postlude

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

Kevin Sadowski

*Special thanks to Jeff Boldt and Mark Gagen
for participating in this evening's worship*

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