

Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 25, 2026



Conversations at the Foot of the Cross

Pastor Erik Allen



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Conversations at the Foot of the Cross

-- Mary and John --

Prelude

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

David Cherwien

Call to Worship

P Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn,

C **that he may heal us;**

P he has stricken,

C **and he will bind us up.**

P After two days he will revive us;

C **on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.**

P God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son,

C **that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Hymn

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 338

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.**

Psalm 16

P Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

C **I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”**

P As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,

C **in whom is all my delight.**

P Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

C **their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.**

P The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

C **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.**

P I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

C **I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

P Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

C **For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

P You show me the path of life.

C **In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Reading

John 19:23-42

²³ When 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. ²⁴ So 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.”

²⁵ And 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. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A 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. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since 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. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, 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 continue to believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

³⁸ After 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. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now 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. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

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: Mary and John

David and Kate Moscrip

The Voices of the Passion
Tune: (O Sacred Head Now Wounded)

**When hearts are bruised and broken
With sorrow, grief, or pain,
What words of love, then spoken,
Can offer hope again?
Oh, send me, Lord, believing,
Your word and love to share;
Make me, where hearts are grieving,
Your instrument of care.**

Prayers

P O Lord, what shall we do?

C **When hearts are heavy, days are dreary, eyes brimful of tears ... when
backs and wills are bent and bowed beneath a load of care and grief
that seems, almost, too great for words, too heavy to be borne.**

P O Lord, what shall we do?

C **We turn to you!**

P For in his life and death for us, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, has borne
our burdens, sins, and cares.

C **And in the living strength of his forgiving, power-giving love we are
refreshed, renewed, restored, and set again upon the daily tasks of life.**

P And when we see the grief and care of others there:

C **When hearts are heavy, days are dreary, eyes brimful of tears ... when
backs and wills are bent and bowed beneath a load of care and grief
that seems, almost, too great for words, too heavy to be borne,**

P and in their darkness they cry out, "O Lord, what shall we do?"

C **send us, O Lord, to turn their hearts to you!**

P Send us in the name of him by whom your children always 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.**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**



Holy Week

Palm Sunday - March 29

Maundy Thursday - April 2 @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday - April 3 @ 12:00 - Stations of the Cross
7:00 @ Tenebrae Service

Easter Saturday - April 4 Egg Hunt @ 11:00

Easter Sunday April 5 - Worship at 10:00
Easter Breakfast following
(signups at the bulletin board on through Flocknote)