

# Mid-Week Lenten Services

March 20, 2024



## Voices of the Passion

“Simon of Cyrene, Cross Bearer”



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*Mid-Week Lenten Worship*  
*March 20, 2024*

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING LITANY**

P: God is our light and our salvation,

C: **our refuge and our stronghold.**

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **We praise your name, O God.**

P: For with you is the fountain of life,

C: **and in your light we see light.**

**HYMN**

Were You There  
(vs 1, 3, 5)

ELW 353

**DIALOG FOR LENT**

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time;

C: **now is the day of salvation.**

P: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

C: **that the light of your face may shine on us.**

P: May your justice shine like the sun;

C: **and may the poor be lifted up.**

**PRAYER FOR LENTEN VESPERS**

P: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

C: **Amen.**

**THE READING**

Matthew 27:27-37

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him

and mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ 30They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

32 As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; 36then they sat down there and kept watch over him. 37Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## THE MESSAGE

*During the Wednesdays of Lent and the days of Holy Week, we revisit the story of Jesus' suffering and death as told from the perspective of various characters in the drama of Jesus' passion. As they speak to us, we will discover how their story is also our story. We were there. We participated. We are the ultimate beneficiaries of the greatest story ever told. Tonight...*

Voices of the Passion  
“Simon of Cyrene, Cross Bearer”

**HYMN**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
(vs 1, 3, 4)

ELW 351

## PRAYERS

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response: Lord, have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;  
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection  
in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering,  
and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need,  
let us pray to the Lord.

For all servants of the church, for this assembly,  
and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were  
permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We  
entrust to you the night; we rest securely, for you are our help, and you neither  
slumber nor sleep; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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!**

## **BLESSING**

**P:** Now in peace I will lie down and sleep;

**C: you alone, O God, make me secure.**

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN**

The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended  
(vs 1,3, 5)

ELW 569

## **POSTLUDE**

*Please place your offering in the plate as you leave worship this evening.*

*All Offerings will be given to ELCA Disaster Response*

*Thank you.*