

Taizé Prayer

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

What Wondrous Love Is This

Throughout the history of Christianity there has been no greater source of conversion than meditation on the death of our Lord. St. Francis surrendered his fortune and his entire life in service to the Lord in response to meditating on the Passion of Jesus.

If the first step to faith is to recognize a need for a Savior. The second step is to ponder the depth of our Savior's love for each of us. The Paschal Mystery, the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, is both a universal communal experience, for ALL, and an individual experience, for YOU. Martin Luther would remind us that the promises of God and the sacrifice of Christ were made, for YOU.

Most things having to do with God and theology have a both/and edge that invites us to live into the tension of expanding, not only our understanding, but our experience of God.

Tonight, we ponder, who is this God who enters the pain and suffering of humanity and walks with us bringing redemption to our chaos? Who is this Christ, who taking on our full humanity, physically embraced the pain of the world, for YOU.

Tonight, do you come in need of God's saving, redeeming love?

Have you come bearing the scars of your own crucifixion?

Are you still on the cross?

Are you journeying with the suffering of others?

Whatever your experience or need today, Jesus has invited and welcomed you into this hour of prayer and solace. It's a good day to talk about the cross with Jesus himself.

Pastor Anne

What Wondrous Love Is This – ELW 666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Call to Worship:

from the Office of Reading

Reader: O glorious cross, your arms upheld the priceless ransom of
captive humankind.

All: Through you, the world has been saved by the blood of the Lord.

Reader: Hail, O cross, consecrated by the body of Christ;
his members have made your wood more
noble than precious pearls.

All: Through you the world has been saved by the blood of the Lord.

Lord God, You Love Us

Taize

Lord God, you love us, source of com - pas - sion.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "Lord God, you love us, source of com - pas - sion." The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the left hand.

♩ = 70

O God, We Call

Words and Music
by Linnea Good

O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in - side we yearn, from
deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn for you. _____

The musical score is written for voice. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 70. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn for you." The score includes a fermata at the end of the phrase.

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Bless The Lord

TAIZE

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.
Bless the Lord my soul, God res - cues me from death.

The musical score is written for voice. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name. Bless the Lord my soul, God res - cues me from death." The score includes a fermata at the end of the phrase.

A Reading from Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:23-31

We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

A Service of Light and Prayer before the Cross

When the music begins, you are invited to come forward to light a candle and place it in the sand by one of the icons. Light your candle from one which is already lit. Please come forward one or two at a time. There is no need to form a line, and you are welcome to remain in prayer for a few moments. There is no hurry to our prayer this evening. The music will continue for a while until all have had time to come forward and pray.

O God, Come and Save Us

Suzanne Toolan, RSM

O God, O God, come now to
save us, and turn our mourn-ing in - to
glad - ness, and our bro-kenness in - to whole - ness. —

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O Christe Domine Jesu

O Christ, Lord Jesus

Taize

O Chris-te Do-mi - ne Je - su, O Chris-te Do - mi - ne Je-su! O

Bathe Me In Your Mercy

Anne M. Harman

Bathe me in your mer-cy. A - noint me in the fra-grance of your
Spir - it. Wrap me in the man-tle of your love. —

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Jesus, Remember Me

Taize



Je sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.



Je-sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

]

Jesus, Hold and Heal Me

Mary Magdalene's Song

Anne M. Harman

♩ = 70



Je - sus, hold me; Je - sus, heal me. Je-sus, help me hold and heal.

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In Your Hands

Anne M. Harman



In Your hands. _____

In Your hands, O Lord.

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With All that I Am

Anne M. Harman



With all that I am, and all that I do, with all my heart and



all my soul, O Lord, A-don-ai, O Lord, A-don-ai, O



Lord, my God, I love you. _____ I love you. _____

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Will You Walk With Me

Mantra for Psalm 88

A Harman

Will you walk with me? Will you walk with me?

5 Will you walk with me in the dark - ness.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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Lead Me Into Silence

AMH

Lead me in - to si - lence to hear Your Word of grace.

5 Lead me in - to still-ness by love to be em - braced.

9 Lead me in - to dark-ness to see You face to face.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, the second staff for the second line, and the third staff for the third line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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The Death of Jesus - Mark 15: 33 - 39

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land^[9] until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ 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?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ 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." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he^[1] breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

A Time of Silence

As the music continues allow yourself to sink into silence. Maybe there is a single word or thought from our prayer this evening that holds your attention or has special meaning for you. Hold that word reverently in your silence. When the music is finished, we will honor several minutes of profound silence in the room. Try to refrain from moving unnecessarily, rustling papers, or distraction to others.

Prayers of Intercession

O Lord, Hear My Prayer Taize



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call an-swer me. O
Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer and Blessing

May almighty God keep you from all harm and bless you with every good gift.

ALL: Amen.

May he set his Word in your heart and fill you with lasting joy.

ALL: Amen.

May you embrace the cross in your lives and know the glory of Jesus.

ALL: Amen.

May you walk in his ways, always knowing what is right and good,
until you enter your heavenly inheritance.

ALL: Amen.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

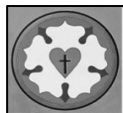
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St. Paul's Spirituality Center

an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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