

Please be seated for the rest of the service

**THE STORY OF THE PASSION – Gospel of St. John**

**One candle is extinguished after each reading**

☒ **Lesson I: John 18:1-11 (Reader 1)**

☒ **Lesson II: John 18:12-27 (Reader 2)**

*Silence for Meditation*

**HYMN #109 "Go to Dark Gethsemane" vs 1,2**

☒ **Lesson III: John 18: 28-40 (Reader 1)**

☒ **Lesson IV: John 19:1-11 (Reader 2)**

*Silence for Meditation*

**HYMN #117 "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" vs 1,2**

☒ **Lesson V: John 19:12-16 (Reader 1)**

☒ **Lesson VI: John 19:17-30 (Reader 2)**

*Silence for Meditation*

**Homily (Chris Wacker)**

**HYMN #110 "At the Cross, Her Station Keeping", vs 1,2**

☒ **Lesson VII: John 19:31-38 (Leader)**

☒ **Meditation**

(Based on a work by Walter Wangerin, Jr.)

**"He Was Wounded" Joyce Vera, Solo**

Folding of the Pall

Extinguishing the last candle

Recession of the pall

Exit the Church in Silence

First Lutheran Church   
Miles City, Montana



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**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

April 3, 2026, 6 p.m.

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Prelude

\*please stand

Lighting of the Candles

**\*Opening Prayer:**

**L:** Almighty God, look with mercy on your family of faith who are gathered here and across the world, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given over into the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C: Amen**

**\*Psalm 22**

**L:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me,  
from the words of my groaning?  
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.

**C: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**L:** All who see me mock at me;  
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;  
"Commit your cause to the Lord;  
Let him deliver – let him rescue  
the one in whom he delights!"

**C: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**L:** I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;  
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

**C: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**L:** For dogs are all around me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shrivelled;  
I can count all my bones.  
They stare and gloat over me;  
they divide my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

**C: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**L:** But you, O Lord, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!  
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him all you offspring of Israel!

**\* Hymn #92**

"Were You There?"

**\* Prayer of the Evening:**

**L:** Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the cross so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you, now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**\*Lord's Prayer:**

**C: 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**

hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"<sup>15</sup> They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."<sup>16</sup> So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

#### **Lesson VI: John 19:17-30**

So they took Jesus,<sup>17</sup> and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.<sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.<sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."<sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.<sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,<sup>24</sup> so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

#### **Lesson VII: John 19:31-38**

So the soldiers did these things,<sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.<sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"<sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."<sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## **THE STORY OF THE PASSION – Gospel of St. John**

### **Lesson I: John 18:1-11**

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.<sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.<sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"<sup>5</sup> They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.<sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.<sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go."<sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one."<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)<sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

### **Lesson II: John 18:12-27**

<sup>12</sup> So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him.<sup>13</sup> First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.<sup>14</sup> It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.<sup>15</sup> Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,<sup>16</sup> but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in.<sup>17</sup> The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."<sup>18</sup> Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold,

and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup> The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?” <sup>24</sup> Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” <sup>26</sup> One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” <sup>27</sup> Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

### **Lesson III: John 18: 28-40**

<sup>28</sup> Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” <sup>30</sup> They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” <sup>31</sup> Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” <sup>32</sup> This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. <sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate

said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. <sup>39</sup> But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” <sup>40</sup> They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

### **Lesson IV: John 19:1-11**

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup> Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” <sup>5</sup> So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” <sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” <sup>7</sup> The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” <sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. <sup>9</sup> He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

### **Lesson V: John 19:12-16**

<sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” <sup>13</sup> So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth