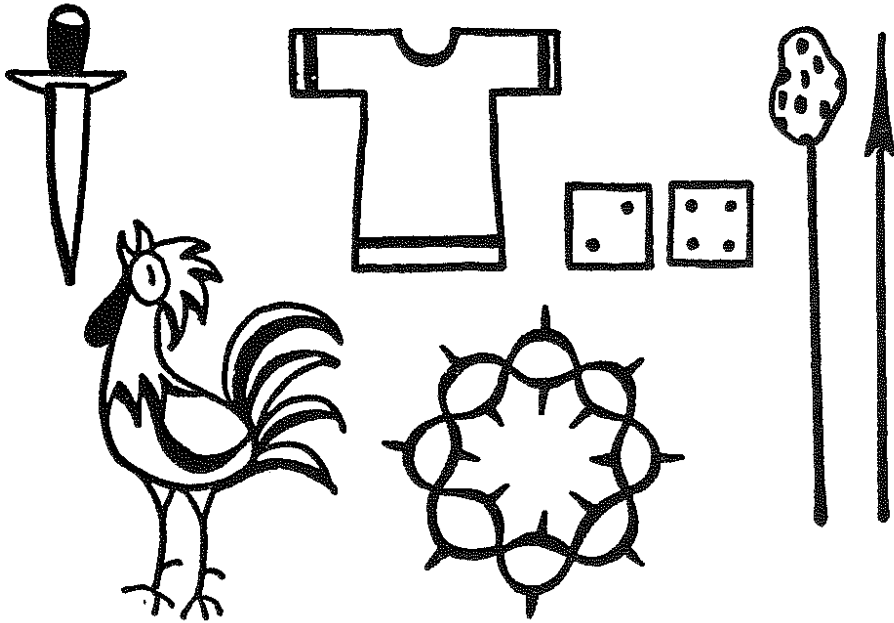


*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Ps. 22:1*



**Good Friday  
April 7, 2023  
7:00pm  
Tenebrae**

# THE HOUR OF DARKNESS

## THE APPROACH TO GOD

### GREETING

- P** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** Amen
- P** Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,
- C** **who redeems us from sin and death.**
- P** For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
- C** **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

### “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LBW (*Green book*), 482

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a corresponding bass line below it. The lyrics are:

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a  
prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,  
count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the Cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

## **FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 9:1-7, *Light shines: a child is born for us*

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## **SECOND LESSON**

Ephesians 5:8-14, *Awake from sleep, live as children of light*

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

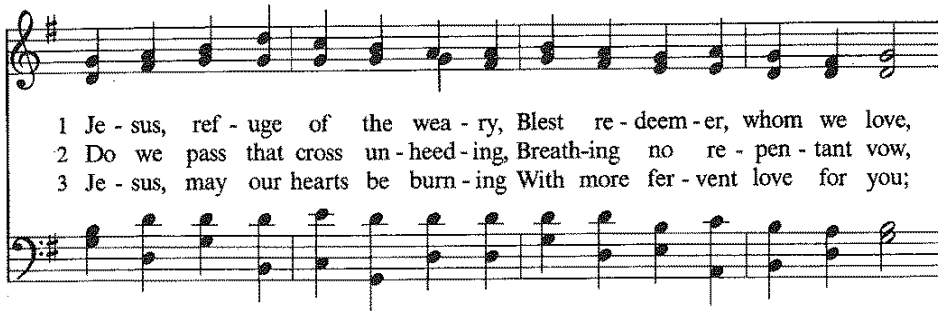
**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

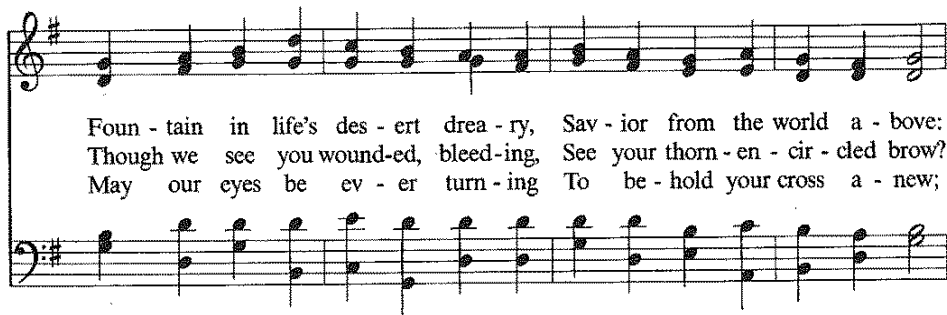
## MEDITATION

### “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

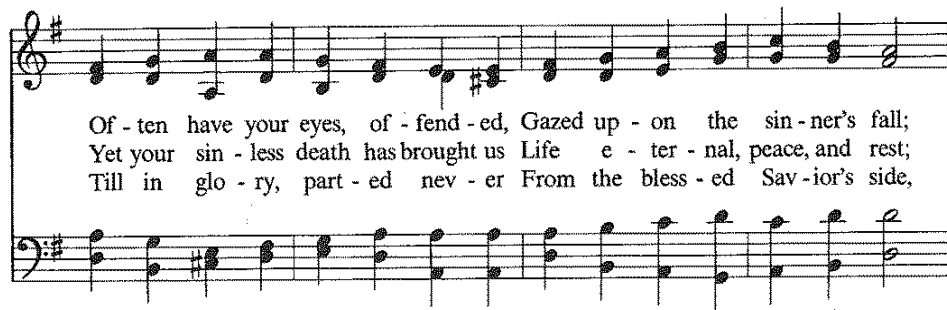
LBW (*Green book*), 93



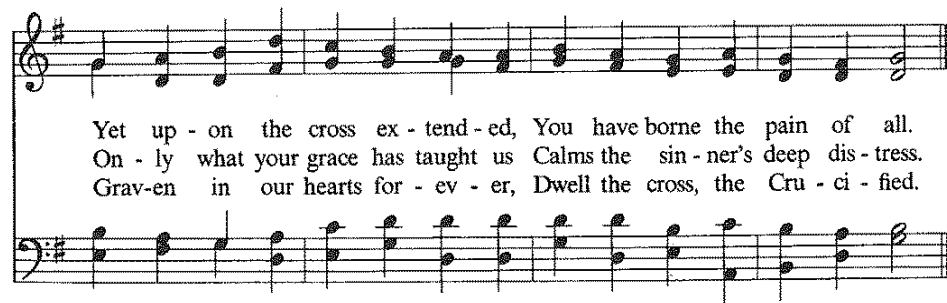
1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest re - deem - er, whom we love,  
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re - pen - tant vow,  
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent love for you;



Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior from the world a - bove;  
Though we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, See your thorn - en - cir - cled brow?  
May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be - hold your cross a - new;



Of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed, Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall;  
Yet your sin - less death has brought us Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest;  
Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side,



Yet up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.  
On - ly what your grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
Grav - en in our hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

## *THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS*

### THE AGONY OF SPIRIT

Matthew 26:36-46

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup>And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” <sup>39</sup>And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” <sup>40</sup>And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup>Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup>Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” <sup>43</sup>And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup>Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

### THE RESPONSE

**P** Who has believed what he has heard from us?

**C** And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

**P** For he grew up before him like a young plant,

**C** And like a root out of dry ground;

**P** He had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

**C** And no beauty that we should desire him.

### HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

TLH 172, st. 4

**My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me,  
For it was my transgression Which brought this woe on Thee.  
I cast me down before Thee; Wrath were my rightful lot.  
Have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!**

*A candle is extinguished.*

## BETRAYAL

Matthew 26:47-56

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." <sup>49</sup> And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. <sup>51</sup> And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" <sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## THE RESPONSE

**P** He was despised and rejected by men,

**C** A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

**P** And as one from whom men hide their faces

**C** He was despised, and we esteemed him not.

## HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

TLH 172, st. 8

What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
Oh, make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

*A candle is extinguished.*

## DENIAL

Matthew 26:69-74

<sup>69</sup>Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” <sup>71</sup>And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>72</sup>And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup>After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup>Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## THE RESPONSE

**P** Surely he has borne our griefs

**C** And carried our sorrows;

**P** Yet we esteemed him stricken,

**C** Smitten by God, and afflicted.

**P** But he was pierced for our transgressions;

**C** He was crushed for our iniquities;

**P** Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

**C** And with his wounds we are healed.

## HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

TLH 172, st. 6

**Here I will stand beside Thee, From Thee I will not part;  
O Savior, do not chide me! When breaks Thy loving heart,  
When soul and body languish In death’s cold, cruel grasp,  
Then, in Thy deepest anguish, Thee in mine arms I’ll clasp.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

## ACCUSATION

Matthew 27:11-26

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.” <sup>12</sup>But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” <sup>14</sup>But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. <sup>15</sup>Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” <sup>18</sup>For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. <sup>19</sup>Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.”

<sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup>And he said, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup>So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup>And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup>Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## THE RESPONSE

**P** All we like sheep have gone astray;

**C** **We have turned—every one—to his own way;**

**P** And the LORD has laid on him

**C** **The iniquity of us all.**



## HYMN

### “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

TLH 172, st. 1

**O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.  
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

## MOCKERY

Matthew 27:27-31

<sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. <sup>28</sup>And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>30</sup>And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup>And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## THE RESPONSE

**P** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

**C** **Yet he opened not his mouth;**

**P** Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

**C** **And like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,**

**P** So he opened not his mouth.

## HYMN

### “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

TLH 172, st. 2

**Men mock and taunt and jeer Thee, Thou noble countenance,  
Though mighty worlds shall fear Thee And flee before Thy glance.  
How art Thou pale with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!  
How doth Thy visage languish That once was bright as morn!**

*A candle is extinguished.*

## CRUCIFIXION

Matthew 27:45-50

<sup>32</sup>As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup>they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup>And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup>Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup>And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” <sup>38</sup>Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” <sup>41</sup>So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup>“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” <sup>44</sup>And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup>And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>47</sup>And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” <sup>48</sup>And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” <sup>50</sup>And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

**THE RESPONSE**

- P** By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
**C** **And as for his generation, who considered**  
**P** That he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
**C** **Stricken for the transgression of my people?**  
**P** And they made his grave with the wicked  
**C** **And with a rich man in his death,**  
**P** Although he had done no violence,  
**C** **And there was no deceit in his mouth.**

**“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

TLH 172, st. 3

**Now from Thy cheeks has vanished Their color, once so fair;  
From Thy red lips is banished The splendor that was there.  
Grim Death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;  
Thus Thou has lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

## DEATH

Matthew 27:51-56

<sup>51</sup>And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, <sup>53</sup>and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

<sup>55</sup>There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, <sup>56</sup>among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

### THE RESPONSE

**P** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;

**C** He has put him to grief;

**P** When his soul makes an offering for guilt,

**C** He shall see his offspring;

**P** He shall prolong his days;

**C** The will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

**P** Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;

**C** By his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,

**P** Make many to be accounted righteous,

**C** And he shall bear their iniquities.

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

TLH 172, st. 9

**My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;  
Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore!  
When soul and body languish, Oh, leave me not alone,  
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!**

*A candle is extinguished.*

## **BURIAL**

Matthew 27:57-66

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup>And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup>The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup>and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ <sup>64</sup>Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” <sup>65</sup>Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” <sup>66</sup>So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## **THE RESPONSE**

**P** Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,

**C** **And he shall divide the spoil with the strong,**

**P** Because he poured out his soul to death

**C** **And was numbered with the transgressors;**

**P** Yet he bore the sin of many,

**C** **And makes intercession for the transgressors.**

**“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

TLH 172, st. 10

**Be Thou my Consolation, My Shield, when I must die;  
Remind me of Thy Passion When my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,  
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.**

*The Christ candle is removed from the sanctuary.*

*While the sanctuary is darkened, there is silence for meditation.*

*A loud sound is heard symbolizing the closing of the tomb.*

*The Christ candle is returned to the sanctuary in anticipation of the ultimate victory.*

**P** May Jesus Christ who for our sakes became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you  
and strengthen you.

**C** **Amen**

*Those who wish to remain for prayer and meditation are invited to do so.*



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

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753 N. Calumet Av.  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383  
(219) 462-7684  
[www.faithmemorial.net](http://www.faithmemorial.net)  
Pastor Eric Schoech