

St. Stephen Lutheran Church of the East Bay & Central Valley
(A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession)
www.ststephenclc.org

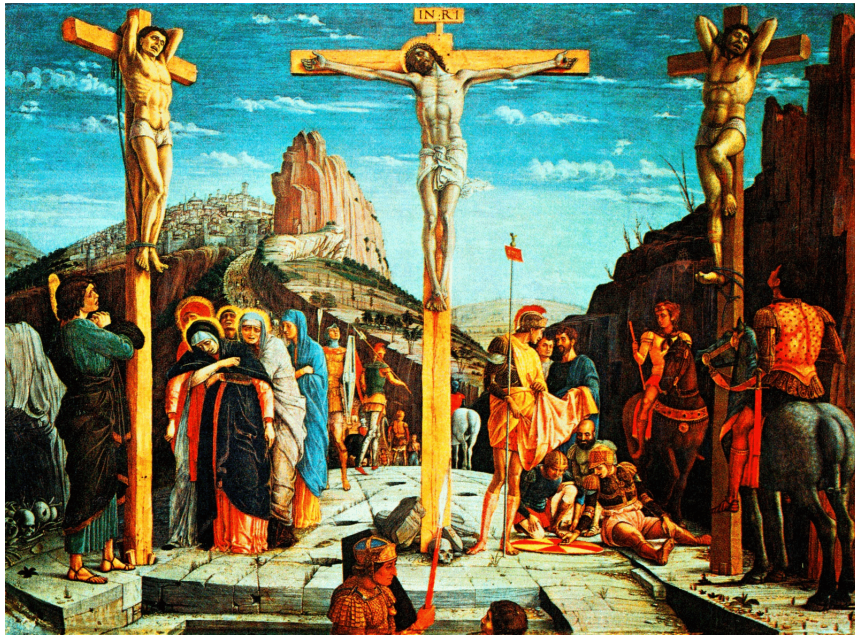
**Worshiping Every Sunday in the East Bay at 9 a.m. in
Grace Lutheran Church
1836 B St., Hayward, CA 94541-3140**

Worshiping in the Central Valley at 2 p.m. - 1st & 3rd Sundays of the Month
Atria Senior Living - Bayside Landing - 1st Floor Activity Room
3318 Brookside Rd., Stockton, CA 95219

Pastor: Steven Karp
21290 Birch St. - Hayward, CA 94541-1538
Phone: (510) 581-6637; e-mail: se-karp@sbcglobal.net

Organist: Elizabeth Karp

† † †



Good Friday 2015 – A Service With The WAY OF THE CROSS –
A Good Friday Meditation

Liturgy – Page 5 of The Lutheran Hymnal

- HYMNS: 172 **O Sacred Head Now Wounded** [1-2 & 4]
 153 **Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted**
 143 **O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken** [printed in
 bulletin]
 167 **O Darkest Woe** [printed in bulletin]

Sermon Text: John 19,16-37

Sermon Theme: Jesus' Death – A Death Like No Other

1. His Death Was Real And Voluntary
2. His Death Is The Death Of Death Itself
3. His Death Means Life For Us

INTROIT: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. All we like sheep have gone astray: and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Hear my prayer, O Lord: and let my cry come unto You. **Amen.**

After the Introit we omit the **Gloria Parti** and sing the **Kyrie**.

The **Gloria in Excelsis**: is omitted during Lent,—we sing (Hymn 146):

P. Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

P & C: Lamb of God, pure and holy,
 Who on the Cross didst suffer,
 Ever patient and lowly,
 Thyself to scorn didst offer.
 All sins Thou borest for us,
 Else had despair reigned o'er us:
 Have mercy on us,
 O Jesus!
 O Jesus!

COLLECT: Merciful and everlasting God, Who did not spare Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins upon the Cross, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him, that we

may not fear the power of any adversaries; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with You and the Holy Ghost, lives and reigns, ever the One true God, world without end. **Amen.**

Old Testament

Isaiah 50,6-9

I gave My back to those who strike Me,
 And My cheek to those who pluck out the beard;
 I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.
 7 For the Lord GOD helps Me,
 Therefore, I am not disgraced;
 Therefore I have set My face like flint,
 And I know I shall not be ashamed.
 8 He Who vindicates Me is near;
 Who will contend with Me?
 Let us stand up to each other;
 Who has a case against Me?
 Let him draw near to Me.
 9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me;
 Who is he who condemns Me?
 Behold, they will all wear out like a garment;
 The moth will eat them.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5,14b-19

Because One [that is, Jesus] died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him Who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, Who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has

committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Gradual

Behold the Lamb of God,

Who takes away the sin of the world.

My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?

Why are You so far from helping Me, and the words of My groaning?

But I am a worm, and not a man,

A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

All who see Me, sneer at Me;

They mock Me with the lip, they wag the head, saying,

“Commit Yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver Him;

Let Him rescue Him, because He delights in Him.”

A band of evildoers has encompassed Me;

They pierced My hands and My feet.

They divide My garments among them,

And for My clothing they cast lots.

But You, O Lord, be not far off;

O You My help, hasten to My assistance.

Christ has humbled Himself and became obedient unto death,

Even the death of the Cross. Amen.

Gospel

John 19,16–37

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

So he [that is, Pilate] then handed Him [Jesus] over to them to be crucified. ¹⁷ They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own Cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the Cross. It was written, “JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” ²⁰ Therefore this inscription many of the Jews read, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew,

Latin, and Greek. ²¹ And so the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’; but that ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews.””” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³ The soldiers, therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. ²⁴ They said therefore to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be”; that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “They divided My outer garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” ²⁵

Therefore the soldiers did these things. But there were standing by the



Cross of Jesus His mother; and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” ²⁷ And then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!”

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. ³⁰ Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

³¹ The Jews, therefore, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies should not remain on the Cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. ³² The soldiers therefore came, and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other man who was crucified with Him; ³³ but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not

break His legs; ³⁴ but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. ³⁵ And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things came to pass, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.” ³⁷ And again, “They shall look on Him Whom they have pierced.” [Scripture passages are

from the *New American Standard Bible*, © The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

[After the Sermon, we will continue with the Offertory, Offering, and Prayers
and then begin our Good Friday Meditation]



**THE WAY OF THE CROSS
A GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION**

L: Then Jesus told His disciples, “If any one wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matthew 16,24-25)

L: Christ has humbled Himself and become obedient to death:

All: Even to death on a Cross.

L: Mercifully assist us:

All: O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby You have given us life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

L: Let us follow the Way of the Cross:

All: In the name of our Lord. Amen

Hymn 143 **O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken**

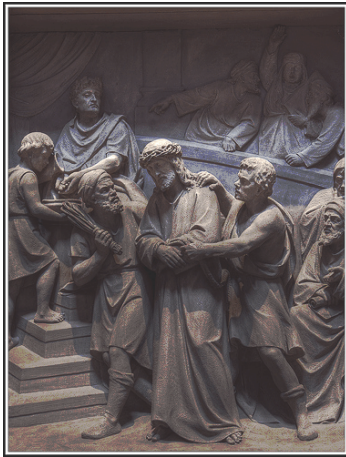
O dearest Jesus, what Law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession, —
What dark transgression?

THE FIRST STATION
Jesus Is Condemned to Death

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

L: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about His death. They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate the governor. Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus Who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let Him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to it yourselves." After flogging Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified. (Matthew 27,1-2.22.24.26b)



(Pause for reflection)

L: By a perversion of justice :

All: He was taken away. Who could have imagined His future? For He was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people. They made His grave with the wicked and His tomb with the rich, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him with pain.
(Isaiah 53,8-10a)

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Son was rejected and condemned to die by Your own people. Grant that we may never reject His Word of Truth and Salvation, but follow Him all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

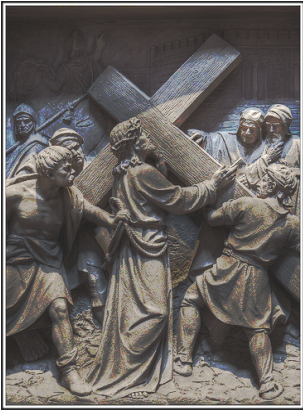
(Sing:)

They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the Cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;
They crucify Thee.

THE SECOND STATION
Jesus Carries His Cross

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



L: Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they dressed Him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking Him on the face. So they took Jesus; and carrying the Cross by Himself, He went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. (John 19,1-2.16b-17)

(Pause for reflection)

L: I gave My back to those who struck Me:

All: And My cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide My face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps Me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set My face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; He Who vindicates Me is near. Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up together. Who are My adversaries? Let them confront Me. It is the Lord GOD Who helps Me. (Isaiah 50,6-9a)

L: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Your Son laid aside all power in order to

take up the Cross and show us the depths of Your love for us. Increase our willingness to bear our own Cross, for love of Him and for love of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

(Sing:)

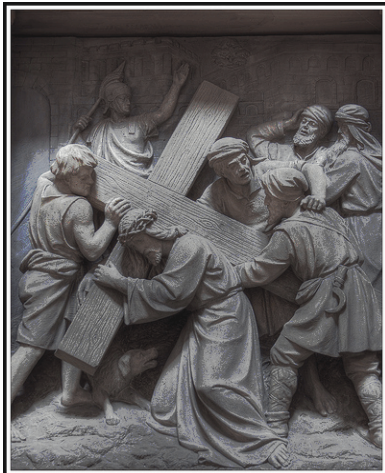
Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,
This I do merit.

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,
Who would not know Him.

THE THIRD STATION ***Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross***

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



L: As the soldiers led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the Cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23,26)

(Pause for reflection)

L: A disciple is not above the teacher:

All: Nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me

is not worthy of Me; and whoever does not take up the Cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. (Matthew 10,24-25a. 37-38; 11,29-30)

L: Let us pray. Loving Father, You have called us into fellowship under the Cross of Your Son that we might bear Your love to all in the world. Help us to be as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need, that all may be called out of the darkness into the light of Your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

(Sing:)

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted, —
God is committed.

There was no spot in me by sin untainted;
Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted;
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me,
Such woe it wrought me.

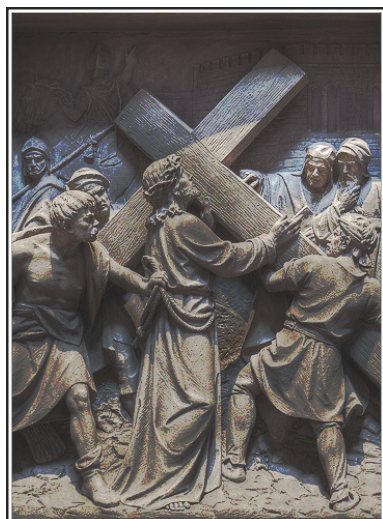
THE FOURTH STATION ***Jesus Continues His Journey To The Cross***

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

L: Surely He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the punishment that made us whole, and by His bruises we are healed. All

we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the



LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53,4-6)

(Pause for reflection)

L: Blessed are the poor in spirit:

All: For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and

be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5,3.5.8.11-12)

L: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, as we walk the Way of Sorrows, it pains us to know that it is our fallenness in sin that crushes Christ under His Cross. Yet by His suffering, we are raised up and made whole. Strengthen us in our Baptismal vows and forgive us always for the sins that make us fall, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

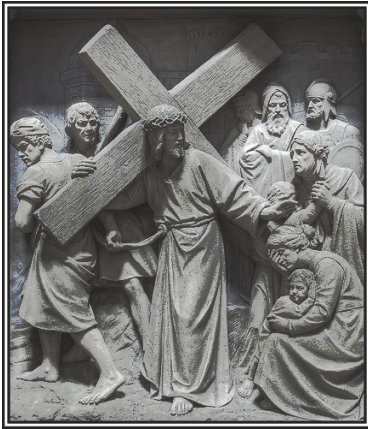
(Sing:)

O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying
While Thou wert dying.

THE FIFTH STATION
Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



L: A great number of the people followed Him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for Him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” (Luke 23,27-28)

(Pause for reflection)

L: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All: The Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, Who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

L: Let us pray. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are but mortal flesh, and the span of our lives is very brief. Help us to see our frailty and affliction as a sharing in Christ’s frailty and affliction, and through them, the path to life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

(Sing:)

O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?
What dare I offer?

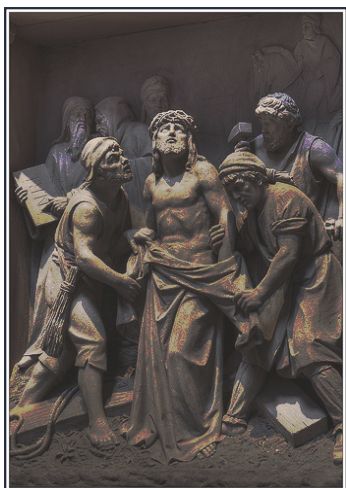
For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder, —
 Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.
 Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee!
 Can I requite Thee?

THE SIXTH STATION
Jesus Is Stripped of His Clothes

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

L: 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. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” (John 19,23-24a)

(Pause for reflection)

L: All of you must clothe yourselves with humility:

All: In your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. (1 Peter 5,5b-7,10)

L: Let us pray. Lord God, Your Son endured humiliations and indignities beyond compare, yet without complaint. Keep us humble in our work and daily lives with a willingness to put others before ourselves as Jesus put us before Himself; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

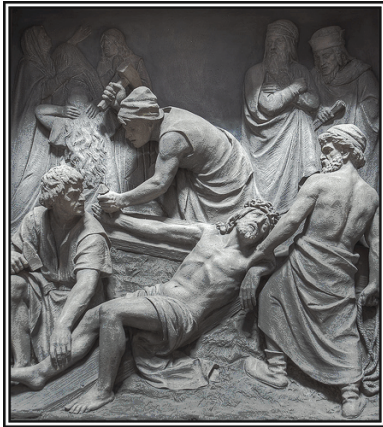
(Sing:)

Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;
I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly
All fires unholy.

THE SEVENTH STATION
Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



L: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23,32-34a)

(Pause for reflection)

L: When we were dead in trespasses:

All: God made us alive together with Him, when He forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the Cross. (Colossians 2,13-14)

L: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, despite His wounds, Jesus showed His love throughout His Passion: for His mother, for the women of Jerusalem, for the good thief, even for those who nailed Him to the Cross. Bind us ever to that love, and help us to look beyond ourselves and our sufferings in order to share that love with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

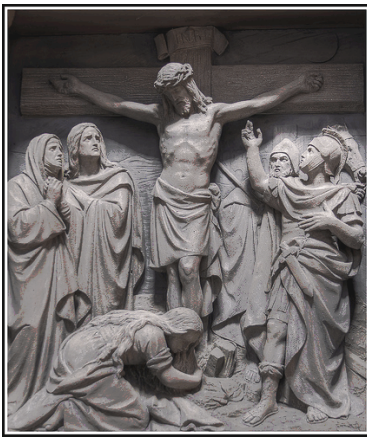
(Sing:)

But since my strength will nevermore suffice me
To crucify desires that still entice me,
To all good deeds, oh, let Thy Spirit win me
And reign within me!

THE EIGHTH STATION
Jesus Sees His Afflicted Mother

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



L: When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing beside her, He said to His mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then He said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.
(John 19,26-27)

(Pause for reflection)

L: Then Simeon blessed them:

All: And said to His mother Mary, “This Child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” (Luke 2,34-35)

L: Let us pray. Father of mercies, a sword of grief pierced deep into the heart of Mary as she witnessed her Son’s Passion. As we share in her sorrow by walking the Way of Sorrows, may we also share in the joy that is to come, the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

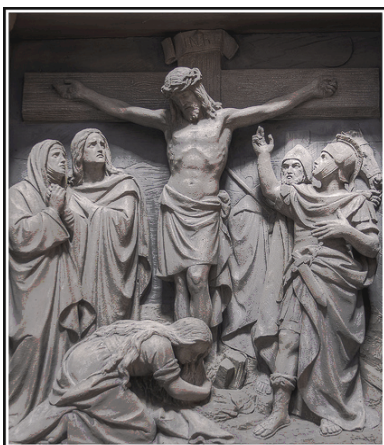
(Sing:)

I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor
Henceforth forever.

THE NINTH STATION
Jesus Dies on the Cross

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



L: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. (Luke 23,44-46)

(Pause for reflection)

L: When You make His life an offering for sin:

All: He shall see His offspring, and shall prolong His days; through Him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of His anguish He shall see light; He shall find satisfaction through His knowledge. The Righteous One, My Servant, shall make many righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
(Isaiah 53,10b-12)

L: Let us pray. Who would have believed it, O God? Who would have thought that the Savior would die? Yet in the world's darkest hour, You permitted Him to walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, crushing sin and death underfoot. Keep us ever close to His Cross and death, now and at the hour of our death; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

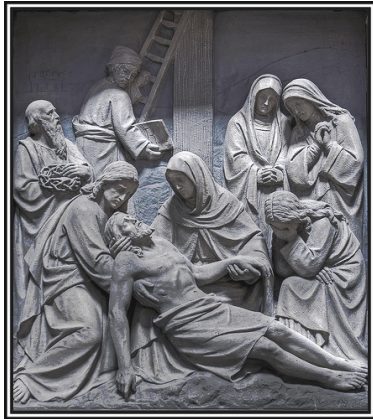
(Sing:)

Whate'er of earthly good this life may grant me,
I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no Cross, shall daunt me;
I shall not fear what man can do to harm me
Nor death alarm me.

THE TENTH STATION *Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross*

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



L: When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the Kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. When he learned from the centurion that He was dead, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen

cloth. (Mark 15,42-43.45-46a)

(Pause for reflection)

L: I will pour out a spirit of compassion:

All: And supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of

Jerusalem, so that when they look on the One Whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over Him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (Zechariah 12,10)

L; Let us pray. Gracious Lord and Consoler of all who mourn, comfort us in all our partings. Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love. Help us always to put our faith in You and entrust our loved ones into Your infinite care; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

(Sing:)

But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it;
 Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not disown it;
 Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness
 Nor shame my weakness.

THE ELEVENTH STATION *Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb*

L: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



L: Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. He and Joseph took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of

Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19,39-42)

(Pause for reflection)

L: Thus says the Lord GOD:

All: “I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O My people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD. I will put My Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD. (Ezekiel 37.12-13a.14)

L: Let us pray. God of Hope, You have promised that if we are buried with Christ in the waters of Baptism, then we too will rise with Him to newness of life. Daily, make us ever mindful of our Baptism and forgive us our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

(Sing:)

And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,
I, too, shall praise Thee.

L: Far be it from me to glory:

All: Except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a Cross. Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is

above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2,5-11)

**All: 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.**

L: Almighty God, we thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the gift of our salvation that He won for us through the Way of the Cross. Make our paths straight and keep our feet upon that Way of the Cross until You bring us safely into Your heavenly Kingdom; where You reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, ever the One true God, now and forever.

All: Amen

L: Let us follow the Way of the Cross:

All: Until our life's end. Amen

P. The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His Face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Ghost.

All: (sung) Amen, Amen, Amen.

1. O darkest woe!
 Ye tears, forth flow!
 Has earth so sad a wonder?
 God the Father's only Son
 Now is buried yonder.

2. O sorrow dread!
 See God is dead!
 But by His expiation
 Of our guilt upon the Cross
 Gained for us salvation.

3. O sinful man!
 It was the ban
 Of death on thee that brought Him
 Down to suffer for thy sins
 And such woe hath wrought Him.

7. O Jesus blest,
 My Help and Rest
 With tears I now entreat Thee:
 Make me love Thee to the last,
 Till in heaven I greet Thee! Amen.

† † †

Lessons for 5 April — Easter Sunday, The Resurrection from the Dead of Our
 Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - A Service with Holy Communion

Old Testament: Isaiah 52,12-15
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15,51-57
 Gospel: Mark 16,1-8

Today's Scripture Verse. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
 (John 3,16)



Easter Worship: Hayward: 9 a.m.

Easter Brunch in Mountain View at 11:15 a.m.

Easter Worship: Stockton, 2 p.m.

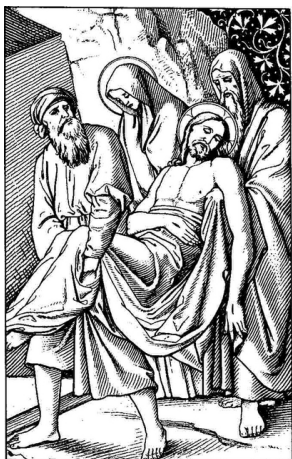
Bible Study – Hayward – Tuesday, 7 April, at 2 p.m.
Stockton – Tuesday, 28 April, at 2 p.m.

Wording of “O Darkest Woe.” In German, the first two lines of the second stanza of “O Darkest Woe” read as follows: “O große Not, | Gott selbst ist Tod.” Literally, this means: “O great distress, | God Himself is dead.” Unfortunately, “God Himself is dead” has more syllables than notes. I changed the wording to read, “See, God is dead,” so the syllables and notes match. This better reflects both the Scriptures and our Confessions than alternative translations, such as, “God’s Son is dead” or “Our God is dead.”

Nailed to the Cross. There are some who say that Jesus was not nailed to the Cross. Here is the definitive answer: “... in Roman times not only was it the rule to nail the victim by both hands and feet, but that the flogging which was a stereotyped part of the punishment would make the blood flow in streams.” (Martin Hengel, *Crucifixion In The Ancient World and the Folly of the Cross*, transl. John Bowden [Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977]: 37–38)

A Reading from the Book of Concord
Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration,
Article VIII, “The Person of Christ”

... The Christian church has always held in simple faith that the divine and human natures in the Person of Christ are united in such a way that they have true communion with each other, by which the natures are not blended into one essence but, as Dr. Luther writes, into one Person.¹⁸ On account of this personal union and communion, the ancient teachers of the church, both before and after the Council of Chalcedon, have often used the term “mixture” in a good sense and with the right distinction. We could adduce many testimonies on this point from the Fathers, if it were necessary, and have frequently quoted them in our writings. The Fathers further illustrated the personal union and communion by analogies of the soul and the body and of glowing iron.¹⁹ For the body and soul, as well as fire and iron, have a communion with each other, not only after a



Jesus is laid in the
tomb

manner of speaking and in a strictly verbal fashion, but in deed and in truth. Yet there is not introduced thereby any sort of blending or equalization of the natures, as mead is made out of honey and water and ceases to be distinguishably either water or honey but is a blended beverage. But the union of the divine and human natures in the Person of Christ is far different from this. For the communion and union between the divine and the human nature in the Person of Christ is far different, much higher, and more ineffable, since on account of this union and communion God is man and man is God but without thereby blending the natures or their properties; on the contrary, each nature retains its essence and properties.

²⁰ On account of this personal union, without which such a true communion of the natures is unthinkable and impossible, it is not only the bare human nature (whose property it is to suffer and to die) that has suffered for the sin of the world, but the Son of God Himself has truly suffered (although according to the assumed human nature) and, in the words of our plain Christian Creed, has truly died, although the divine nature can neither suffer nor die.

⁴⁴ Likewise, Dr. Luther states in his treatise Concerning the Councils and the Church: "We Christians must know that unless God is in the balance and throws in weight as a counterbalance, we shall sink to the bottom with our scale. I mean that this way: If it is not true that God died for us, but only a man died, we are lost. But if God's death and God dead lie in the opposite scale, then His side goes down and we go upward like a light and empty pan. Of course, He can also go up again or jump out of his pan. But He could never have sat in the pan unless He had become a man like us, so that it could be said: God dead, God's passion, God's blood, God's death. According to His nature God cannot die, but since God and man are united in one Person, it is correct to talk about God's death when that man dies Who is one thing or one Person with God." So far Luther. ⁴⁵ From this it is evident that it is wrongly put to say or to write that the cited locutions, "God suffered," "God died," are merely empty words which do not correspond to reality. For our plain Christian Creed teaches us that the Son of God, Who was made man, suffered for us, died, and redeemed us with His blood. [Tappert, Theodore G., ed.: The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, ©1959), pp. 594-95 & 599, § 17-20 & 44-45]