

PRAYER

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now | 98 v.1,3

**Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy passion;
With your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish.**

**Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of your crucifixion.**

PASSION HISTORY READING

Mark 15:16-47

¹⁶The soldiers led him away inside the palace, which is the Praetorium, and called together the whole cohort of soldiers. ¹⁷They put a purple robe on him, twisted together a crown of thorns, and put it on him. ¹⁸The soldiers began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They kept hitting him on the head with a reed and spitting on him. They also kneeled down to pay homage to him.

²⁰When they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothing on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹A certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They forced him to carry Jesus' cross. ²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means, "The place of a skull." ²³They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴They crucified him. And they divided his garments, casting lots for them to decide what each of them would take.

²⁵Now it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶The superscription stating the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷They also crucified two criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹Those who passed by ridiculed him, shaking their heads and saying, “Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself! Come down from the cross!”

³¹In the same way, the chief priests along with the experts in the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said. “He cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross so that we may see and believe!”

Those who were crucified with him also insulted him.

³³When it was the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

³⁵When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah!”

³⁶Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. They said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

³⁷Jesus cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last. ³⁸The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he cried out and breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰There were also women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹When he was in Galilee, they followed him and served him. Many other women also came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²It was already evening, and since it was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath), ⁴³Joseph from Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had been dead for a long time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Joseph bought a linen cloth, took him down, and wrapped him in the linen cloth. He laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of rock, and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching where the body was laid.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane | 104

**Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall; View the Lord of life arraigned.
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, pain, or loss; Learn of him to bear the cross.**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; Learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

**Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid his breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.**

DEVOTION

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN

Now the Light Has Gone Away | 593

**Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,
Asking you to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.**

**Jesus, Savior, wash away All that I've done wrong today.
Make me ever more like you, Good and gentle, kind and true.**

**Let my near and dear ones be Safe with you eternally.
Oh, bring me and all I love To your happy home above.**

**Now my evening praise I give; You once died that I might live.
All your precious gifts are free—Oh, how good you are to me!**

**Ah, my best and kindest Friend, You will love me to the end.
Let me love you more and more, Always better than before.**