

The background of the poster features a close-up of a wooden branch with small green leaves and a brown bowl containing bread. The text is overlaid on this background.

Maundy Thursday

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

Luke 22:19

APRIL 2, 2026



**SALEM
HELLERS**

Evangelical Reformed Church



Salem Evangelical Reformed Church, Hellers

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 2, 2026

Prelude—*Gethsemane* (Getty, Townend)

Carolyn McLain

*To see the King of heaven fall in anguish to His knees;
the Light and Hope of all the world now overwhelmed with grief.
What nameless horrors must He see, to cry out in the garden:
“Oh, take this cup away from Me, yet not My will but Yours.”*

*To know each friend will fall away, and heaven’s voice be still,
for hell to have its vengeful day upon Golgotha’s hill.
No words describe the Savior’s plight—to be by God forsaken
‘til wrath and love are satisfied, and every sin is paid.*

*What took Him to this wretched place? What kept Him on this road?
His love for Adam’s cursed race, for every broken soul.
No sin too slight to overlook, no crime too great to carry,
all mingled in this poisoned cup, and yet He drank it all.*

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Pastor Tim Witmer

Call to Worship—*O Breath of God*

Verse 1—Choir only

Verses 2,3 and 4—*Congregation joins choir

442 O Breath of God

1. O Breath of God, come fill this place; re - vive our
2. O Word of God, so clear and true, re - new our
3. O Love of God, so un - re - strained, re - fresh our
4. May God the Fa - ther, God the Son and God the

hearts to know Your grace And from our slum - ber
minds to trust in You; And give to us the
souls in Je - sus' name. Let us re - flect Your
Spir - it make us one; In ho - li - ness let

make us rise, that we may know the ris - en Christ.
Bread of Life, that we may know the ris - en Christ.
sac - ri - fice, that we may know the ris - en Christ.
us u - nite, that we may know the ris - en Christ.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Phil Madeira

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John 11:55-12:8

“Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?”

Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

Choral Anthem—*My Song is Love Unknown* (Text: Crossman, Music: Ijames)

*My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
Oh who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?*

*Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day Hosannas to their King,
then “Crucify!” is all their breath and for His death they thirst and cry.*

*Why, what hath my Lord done to cause this rage and spite,
He made the lame to walk, He gave the blind their sight,
what injuries, yet these are why the Lord most high so cruelly dies.*

*Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine,
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days will gladly spend.
My song is love unknown.*

John 12:20-36a

“Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”

So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

Choral Anthem—*Wondrous Love* (American Folk Hymn, Arr. P. Christiansen)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
that caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul,
that Christ should lay aside his crown,
that Christ should lay aside his crown for my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous, wondrous love, O my soul,
O my soul, what wondrous love.

John 12:36b-50

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”

Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”

And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

Choral Ensemble—*God So Loved the World* (John Stainer)

*God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that who so believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved.*

*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that who so believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
God so loved the world.*

Matthew 26:17-30

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”
And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup,

and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Musical Offering—*Behold the Lamb* (Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend)

Natalie Bennett & Carolyn McLain

*Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
slain for us, and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.*

*The body of our Savior Jesus Christ,
torn for you, eat and remember
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life
paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.*

*The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you, drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.
So we share in this bread of life,*

*and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.*

*And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond, and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
around the table of the King.*

Communion Meditation

Dr. Tim Witmer

Communion

Invitation and Service of the Elements

We celebrate an open communion. All who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to the Lord's Table.

The tray contains both white grape juice and red wine.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

John 14:1-5

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

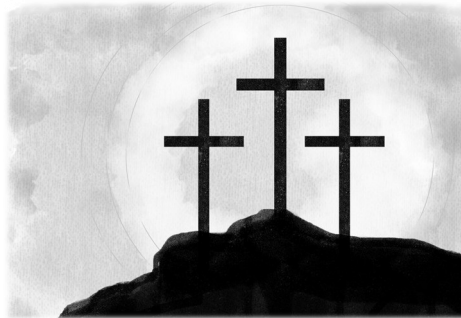
*Congregational Hymn—*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

274 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

• 1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the Prince of
 • 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of
 • 3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and love flow
 • 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were *a pres - ent

Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I count but loss, And pour con -
 Christ, my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sac - ri -
 min - gled down; Did e'er such love and sor - row meet, Or thorns com -
 far too small; Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine, De - mands my

tempt on all my pride.
 fice them to His blood.
 pose so rich a crown?
 soul, my life, my all!



Words: Isaac Watts

Music: Lowell Mason; Last two stanzas setting adpt. Fred Mallory

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Matthew 26:36-56

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.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” 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.”

And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

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. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”



A lot can happen in
seven days.

Choral Anthem—*Dark Gethsemane* (Text: Montgomery, Music: Cruger, Arr. Larson)

*Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power;
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.
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn of Him to bear the cross.*

*Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at His feet,
mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete!
"It is finished!" hear Him cry. Learn from Jesus Christ to die.*

John 19:1-16

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.

And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.

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."

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

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." 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."

When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.

He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?”

But Jesus gave him no answer.

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?”

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.”

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.”

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.

Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”

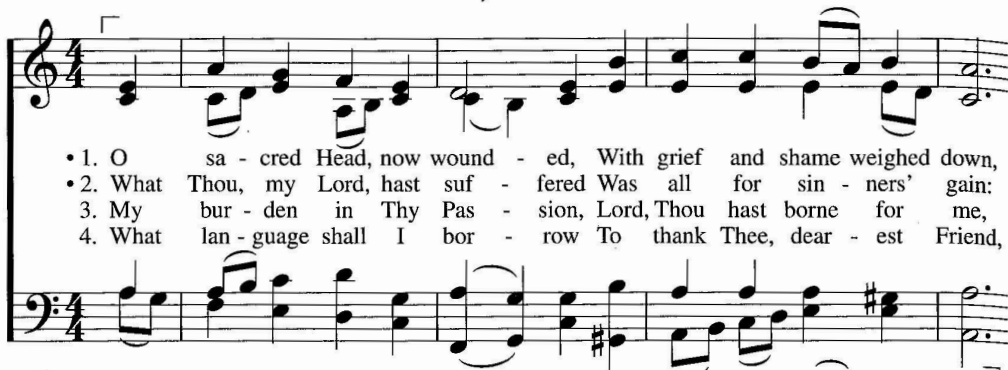
They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

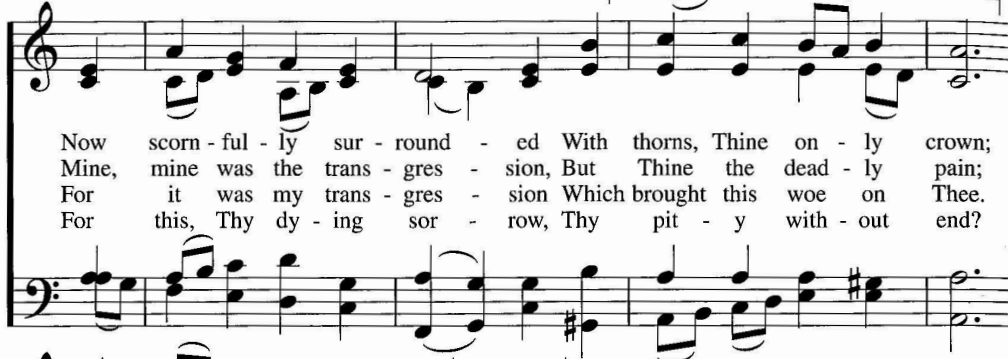
The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Congregational Hymn—*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

271 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



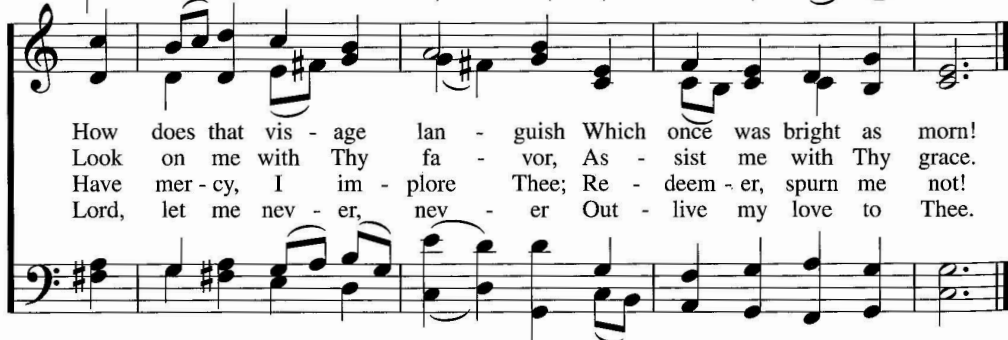
• 1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
• 2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
3. My bur - den in Thy Pas - sion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me,
4. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown;
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain;
For it was my trans - gres - sion Which brought this woe on Thee.
For this, Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
I cast me down be - fore Thee, Wrath were my right - ful lot;
O make me Thine for - ev - er, And should I faint - ing be,



How does that vis - age lan - guish Which once was bright as morn!
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, As - sist me with Thy grace.
Have mer - cy, I im - plore Thee; Re - deem - er, spurn me not!
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er Out - live my love to Thee.

Words: Paul Gerhardt, based on Medieval Latin Poem; tr. James W. Alexander

Music: Hans Leo Hassler; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach; Last stanza setting by Russell Mauldin

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Luke 23:32-43

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

And they cast lots to divide his garments.

And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

here was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Musical Offering—*Arise, My Soul, Arise* (Text: Charles Wesley, Music: Dan Forrest)

Carolyn McLain

*Arise, my soul, arise, Shake off thy guilty fears;
the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:
before the Throne my Surety stands,
before the Throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on His hands,
my name is written on His hands.*

*Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary
they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive him, O, forgive,” they cry,
“Forgive him, O, forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die,
nor let that ransomed sinner die.”*

*God is reconciled; His pard’ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear;
with confidence I now draw nigh,
with confidence I now draw nigh,
and “Father, Abba, Father,” cry,
“Father,” cry.*

*Arise, my soul, arise! And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.
Arise, my soul, arise.*

Luke 23:44-48

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying,
“Certainly this man was innocent!” And all the crowds that had assembled
for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned
home beating their breasts.

Choral Anthem—*The Cross* (Text: Martin, Music: Courtney)

*The cross before me to lead, the cross behind me to defend,
the cross below me to uphold, the cross beside me to befriend,
the cross above me to inspire, the cross within me to consume,
O cross surround me with your power, enfold my life, my soul, my all.*

*The cross each morning when I rise, the cross each evening while I sleep,
The cross I see before my eyes, The cross upon my lips I sing.
The cross be all that I will need, The cross be all that I believe,
The cross be with me in this life, The cross be with me when I leave.*

*The cross before me, the cross behind me, the cross within me,
The cross is all I need. The cross is all I need.*

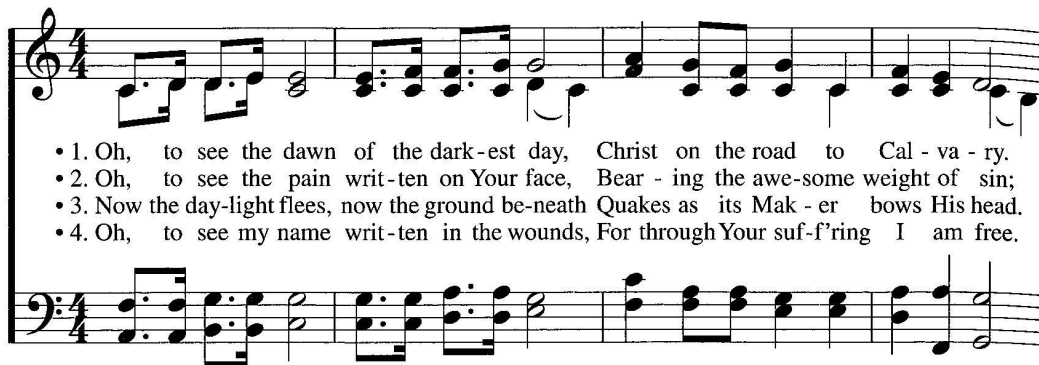
Congregational Hymn—*The Power of the Cross

***Closing Prayer**

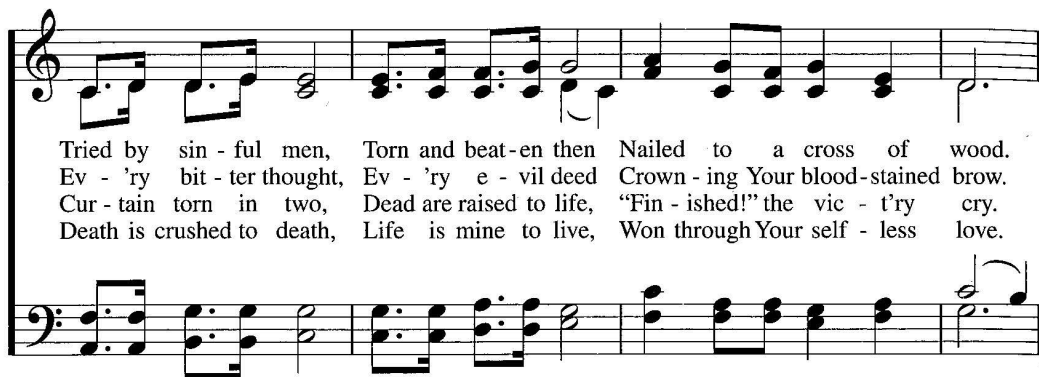
*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

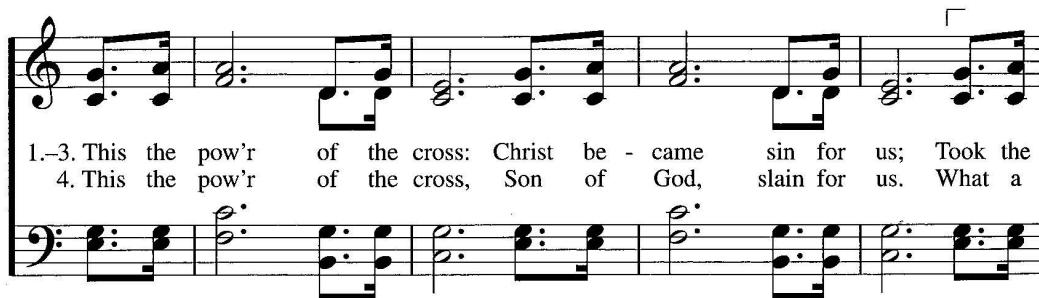
272 The Power of the Cross



1. Oh, to see the dawn of the dark-est day, Christ on the road to Cal - va - ry.
 2. Oh, to see the pain writ-ten on Your face, Bear - ing the awe-some weight of sin;
 3. Now the day-light flees, now the ground be-neath Quakes as its Mak - er bows His head.
 4. Oh, to see my name writ-ten in the wounds, For through Your suf-f'ring I am free.



Tried by sin - ful men, Torn and beat-en then Nailed to a cross of wood.
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought, Ev - 'ry e - vil deed Crown - ing Your blood-stained brow.
 Cur - tain torn in two, Dead are raised to life, "Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry cry.
 Death is crushed to death, Life is mine to live, Won through Your self - less love.



1.-3. This the pow'r of the cross: Christ be - came sin for us; Took the
 4. This the pow'r of the cross, Son of God, slain for us. What a



blame, bore the wrath, We stand for - giv - en at the cross.
 love! What a cost! We stand for - giv - en at the cross.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

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Director of Music—Carolyn McLain
Organist and Pianist—David Andrews
Scripture Readers—Bill McLain, Mark Steller

Sanctuary Choir

SOPRANO

Natalie Bennett
Nancy Dearolf
C H
K H
Joanne Kinch
Marie Peazzoni
Nancy Rovers
Susie Snyder
Barbara Witmer

ALTO

Monica Barbosa
Jean Good
Nancy Hess
Rhi Landis
Dawn Oswald
Mary Rineer
Lois Schrock
Jenni Simmons
Kathy Smith
Betty Snyder
Sharon Yoder

TENOR

Bill McLain
Mark Steller
Bruce Tucker

BASS

Carl Hess
Bob Kauffman
Rey Rovers

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