INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

✢ Good Friday • April 18th, 2025 ✢

Worship Notes: *• Our Lector Readers are Mary Kehl, Alex McArver, Teresa Boykin, Bill Williamson, Ben Willhide, and Bill Behymer • Our Pianist is Michael Willhide • Our Soloist is Maggie Murdock •*

GATHERING

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to Matthew, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day-the triumph of the cross-reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer, we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.

PRELUDE St. Matthew Passion Opening Chorus J.S. Bach

Come, ye daughters, help me lament,
Behold! Whom? The Bridegroom.
Behold him! How? Like a lamb.
Behold! What? Behold his patience.
Behold! Where? Behold our guilt.
Behold Him, out of love and graciousness,
Himself carrying the wood of the cross.

OPENING LITURGY

We remember this day the crucifixion of our Lord.

Our Lord Jesus, who for our sake was obedient unto death.

We focus on the cross He carried in our place.

And the weight of sins which He bore for us.

Tonight we contemplate Jesus' suffering and death;

that we might die to ourselves through Him and be raised to new Life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

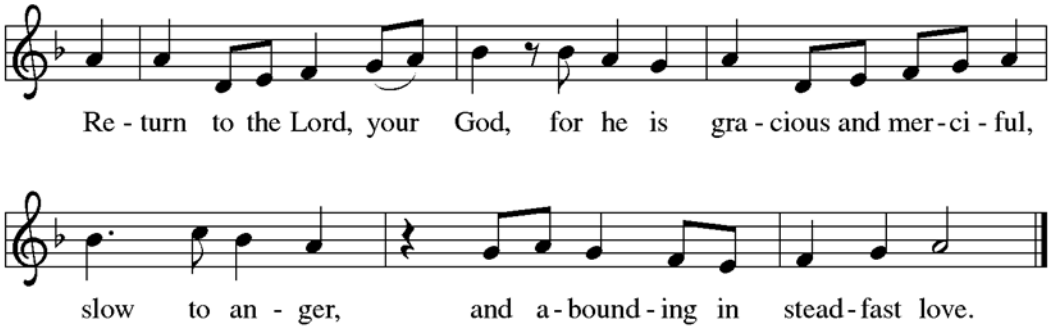
READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

13 See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.
14 Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
15 so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.
53:1 Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
4 Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
5 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.
6 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.
7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
8 By a perversion of justice 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.
9 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.
10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
11 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.
12 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW s151b



GOSPEL: Matthew 26: 47-27:3, 27:11-27:61 *Congregation's lines are in **bold.***
Before the Reading: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord."**

47While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with
swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48Now the betrayer had given them
a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." 49At once he came up to Jesus and said,
"Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. 50Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they
came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. 51Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his
sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 52Then Jesus said to him, "Put
your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53Do you think that I
cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54But how
then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" 55At that hour Jesus said to
the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after
day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56But all this has taken place, so that the
scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

57Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes
and the elders had gathered. 58But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the
high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. 59Now the chief
priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to
death, 60but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61and
said, "**This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'**" 62The
high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" 63But Jesus
was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are
the Messiah, the Son of God." 64Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you,From now on you will
see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

65Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need
witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. 66What is your verdict?" They answered, "**He deserves
death.**" 67Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, 68saying, "**Prophesy to us,
you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?**"

69Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also
were with Jesus the Galilean." 70But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are
talking about." 71When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the
bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the
man." 73After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them,

for your accent betrays you." 74Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. 75Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

St Matthew Passion - 47, Aria: “Erbarme dich, Mein Gott, um meiner Zähren willen!” J.S. Bach
Solo: Maggie Murdock
Have mercy,
My God, for my tears sake;
Look hither,
Heart and eyes weep before thee
Bitterly.

1When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. 2They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

11Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." 12But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. 13Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" 14But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.
15Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. 17So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." 20Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "**Barabbas.**" 22Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "**Let him be crucified!**" 23Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "**Let him be crucified!**"

24So 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." 25Then the people as a whole answered, "**His blood be on us and on our children!**" 26So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.
27Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "**Hail, King of the Jews!**" 30They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

32As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; 36then they sat down there and kept watch over him. 37Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

38Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 40and saying, "**You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**" 41In

the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42"**He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.** 43**He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'**" 44The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. 45From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 47When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "**This man is calling for Elijah.**" 48At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49But the others said, "**Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.**" 50Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

St Matthew Passion - 71-72, Recitative of Matthew 27:47-50 and Chorale, J.S. Bach
When once I must depart,
Do not depart from me;
When I must suffer death,
Then stand thou by me!
When I most full of fear
At heart shall be,
Then snatch me from the terrors
Of fear and pain by thy strength!

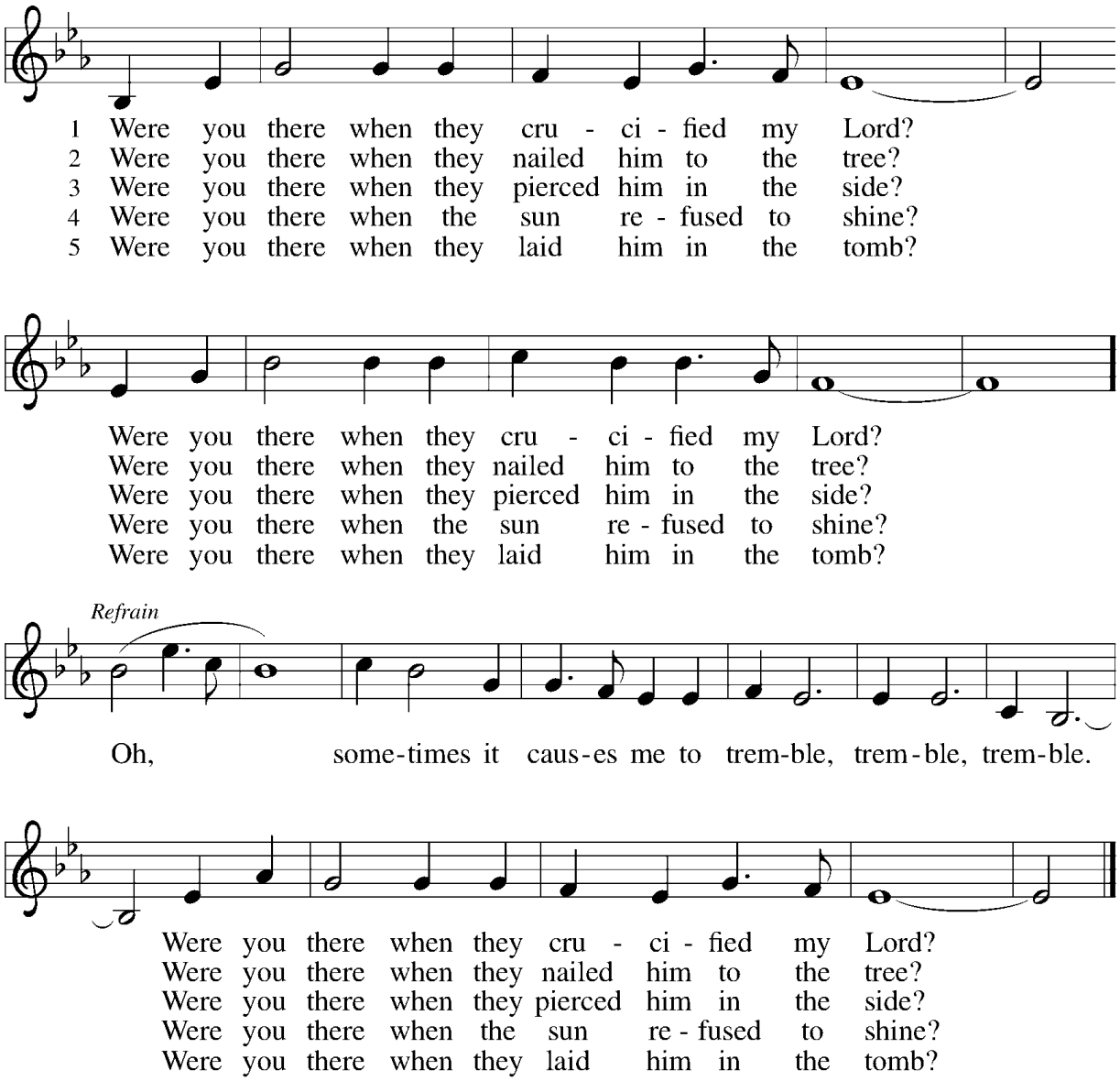
51At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "**Truly this man was God's Son!**" 55Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. 56Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

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

After the Reading: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 353

Were You There
WERE YOU THERE



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On Good Friday, the church's ancient Bidding Prayer is sung or spoken. You are invited to sit or kneel as you are able. Each petition ends with the words: We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world... Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS:
We invite you to come lay a candle on the cross after it has been placed at the front of the church.

"Ah, Holy Jesus/Nine Tailors"
Variations on the chorale *Herzliebster Jesu* by Johann Crûger (1598-1662)
Arranged by Paul J. Sticha

"Nine Tailors" refers to a toll from tower bells that announced the death of a man. The toll consisted of three groups of three rings of the lowest (or tenor) bell in the tower, followed by one ring for each year of the man's life. The death of a woman was announced by six rings. The original name for the toll was probably "Nine Tenors," which was later corrupted to "Nine Tellers," and finally, "Nine Tailors."

As the Handbell Choir plays, the congregation is invited to mediate on the verses by Johann Hermann (1585-1647), found in ELW 349

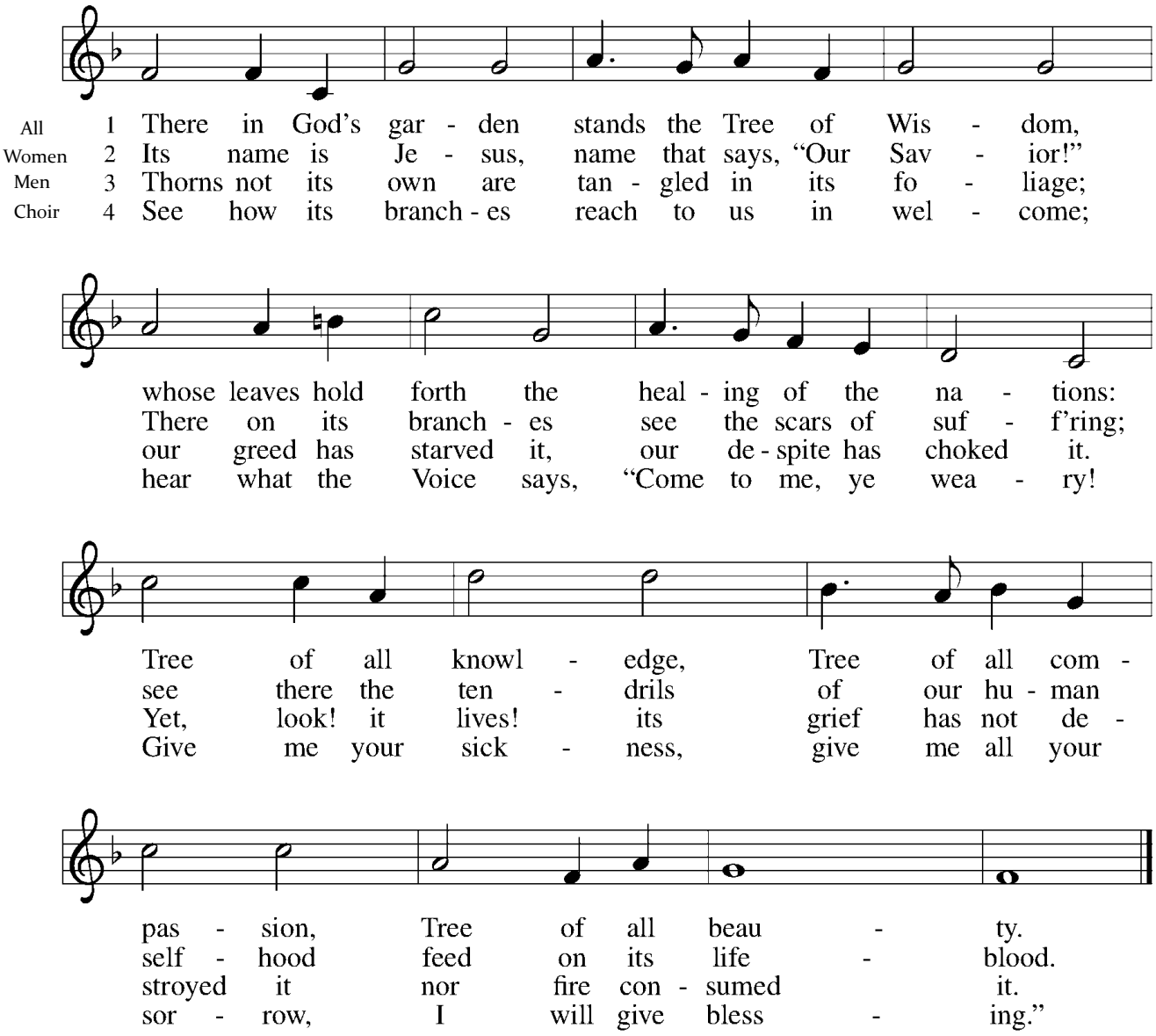
"St. Matthews Passion" 77 - 78, Recitative and Chorus: "Wir setzen uns mit Tränen nieder" J.S. Bach
Now the Lord is brought to rest.
My Jesus, good night!
The toil is done which our sins made for him.
My Jesus, good night!
O blessed limbs,
See how I weep for thee with penance and remorse,
That my fall brought thee into such distress!
My Jesus, good night!
Take, while life lasts,
A thousand thanks for thy passion,
That thou didst prize my soul's redemption so dearly!
My Jesus, good night

We sit down in tears
And call to thee in the tomb:
Rest softly, softly rest!
Rest, ye exhausted limbs!
Your grave and tombstone
Shall for the unquiet conscience
Be a comfortable pillow
And the soul's resting place.
In utmost bliss the eyes slumber there.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

HYMN: ELW 342

There in God's Garden
SHADES MOUNTAIN



All 5 This is my ending
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

All 6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

The congregation departs in silence.