

Good Friday

March 29, 2024

7:00 pm



Welcome to worship. We are glad you are here and hope you will spend as much of Holy Week with us as you can. You and your friends are welcome here—always. Please keep the back cover for yourself or give it to a friend as it has the Holy Week schedule of worship services.



Welcome to this evening worship where we commemorate Jesus' death on the cross.

On Saturday we will meet at 7:00 pm to hold our Easter Vigil.

Please join us again on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the empty tomb at 9:30 am.

A nursery is available down the hall, last door on the right. Rest rooms are also down the hall to the right.

Messiah Lutheran Church
303 Route 101 PO Box 488
Amherst, New Hampshire
603.673.2011 www.messiahnh.org



Ministers: All God's people at Messiah
Rev. Karl Hester, Pastor
Jon Abrams, Music Director

please enter in and remain in silence

Reflection on the Cross: Dietrich Bonhoeffer

CHEAP GRACE is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting to-day for costly grace.

Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolation of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using it and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if not cheap?

...

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

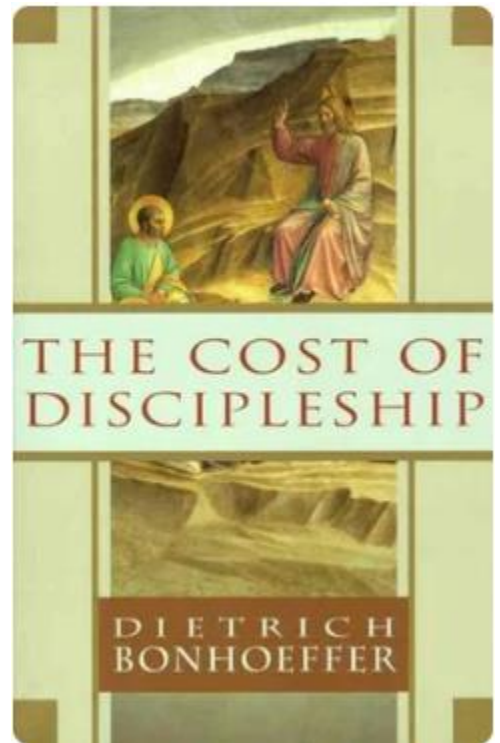
Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be *sought* again and again, the *gift* which must be *asked* for, the door at which a man must *knock*.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is *grace* because it calls us to follow *Jesus Christ*. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it give a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is *costly* because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is *grace* because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Cost grace is the Incarnation of God.

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pp. 43, 44-45

silence for reflection



³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ 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. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:32-34b, NRSV

first candle is extinguished

"Love Consecrates the Humblest Act" ELW 360

1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and ha - loes mer - cy's deeds;
2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ knelt and washed the feet
3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what Christ in love so true

it sheds a ben - e - dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.
of his dis - ci - ples, he gave us a sign of love com - plete.
has free - ly done for one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, 1845–1917
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:39-43, NRSV

second candle is extinguished

"My Song is Love Unknown" ELW 343, vv. 1-5

1 My song is love unknown, my Sav-ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne sal-va-tion to be-
 3 Some-times we strew his way and his sweet prais-es
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a

me, love to the love-less shown that they might
 stow; the world that was his own would not its
 sing; re-sound-ing all the day ho-san-nas
 way, a mur-der-er to save, the prince of

love-ly be. Oh, who am I that
 Sav-ior know. But, oh, my friend, my friend,
 to our king. Then 'Cru-ci-fy!' is
 life to slay. Yet cheer-ful he to

for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 friend in-deed, who at my need his life did spend!
 all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
 suf-f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

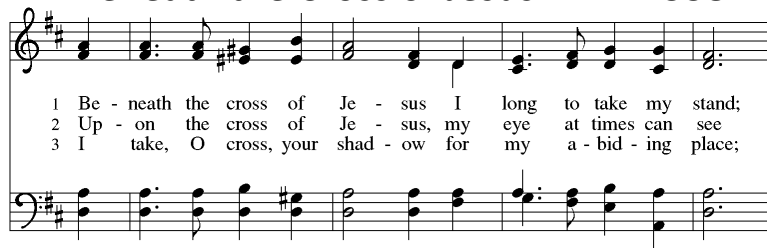
5 In life no house, no home
 my Lord on earth might have;
 in death no friendly tomb
 but what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

²³ 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. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

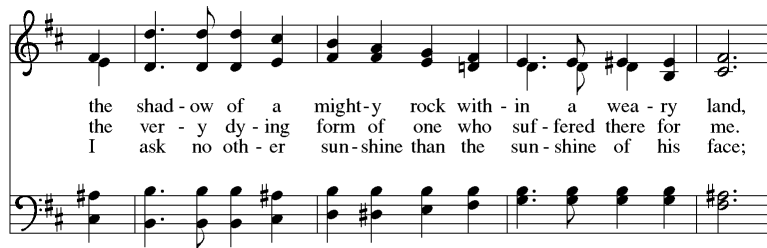
John 19:23-27, NRSV

third candle is extinguished

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" LBW 338



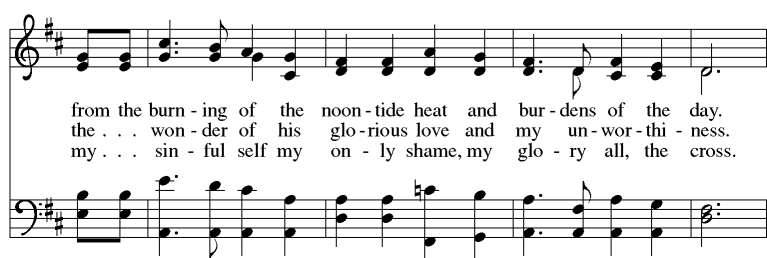
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And 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?"

Matthew 27:45-46, NRSV

fourth candle is extinguished

"Were You There" ELW 353, vv. 1-3

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there?

Refrain
 Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there?

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual
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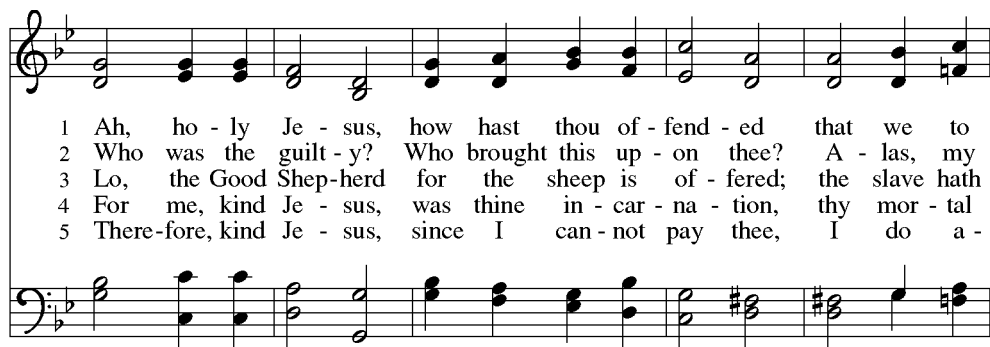
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²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

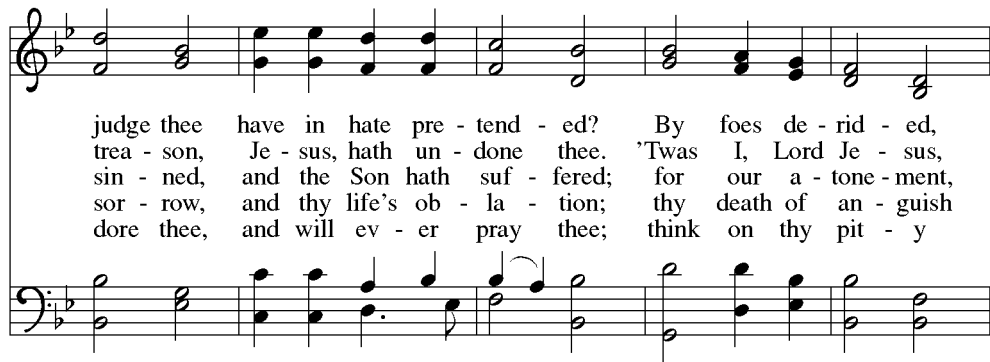
John 19:28-29, NRSV

fifth candle is extinguished

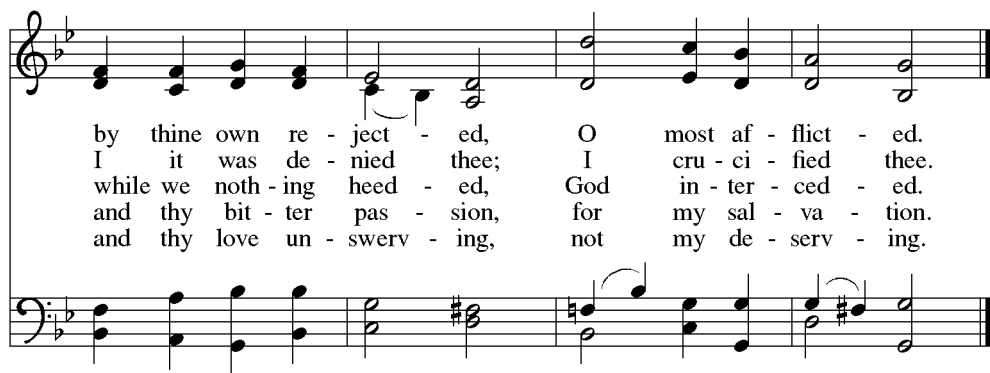
"Ah, Holy Jesus" ELW 349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."
Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30, NRSV

sixth candle is extinguished

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" ELW 347, vv. 1-3

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see, Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ 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, NRSV

seventh candle is extinguished

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" ELW 351

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Paschal candle is extinguished and removed

*Please stay in silence and reflection for as long
as you wish and then depart in silence.
If you would like to come up in silence
and light prayer candles you may.*

The worship continues tomorrow at 7:00 at the vigil.

Readers: Kathy Brundage & Trudi Costa

Tech:

Bonhoeffer Reflection read by: Pastor Karl Hester

Musician: Jon Abrams

Easter Vigil

March 30, 7:00 pm

We wait—surrounding ourselves in story, music
and light—for Jesus to return from the dead as
he said he would.



Easter (with brunch served afterwards)
March 31, 9:30 am

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The
empty tombs fills our lives with purpose and
hope. Come and rejoice. "Christ is risen!!!" We
will be receiving new members.

Holy Week 2024

Messiah Lutheran Church
303 Route 101
Amherst, NH 03031

All Are Welcome

www.messiahnh.org
www.youtube.com/@MessiahNH



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