



Service Focus:

Look Up: To Get a Glimpse of Heaven

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California
Holy Thursday | April 2, 2026



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Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! You have joined us for the most important time we spend together. Each time we gather as a family of faith, we make the gospel (or good news) of Jesus our central focus. It is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, our service proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Many of the elements of this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Some are very recent. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

Are you visiting with us today? Thank you! We love meeting our neighbors and would be grateful for the opportunity to extend our thanks in a more formal way. **Please consider filling out one of the Welcome/Connect cards in the rack in front of you, or scan the QR code** to the right to help us know you better.

Connect Card



For Your Convenience

- **The order of service** is printed in this folder. If a song is not printed in this service folder, it can be found in the blue hymnal in front of your seat. The pastor will speak the words in normal print. **The congregation is invited to speak those printed in bold.** Please participate as you are comfortable today.
- **Restrooms** are located in the fellowship hall building to the left as you exit church.
- Please reserve the rows in the back of the church for families with small children.
- If you are in need of any other assistance, any one of our members will be happy to assist you.

Participation & Children

Sometimes parents (and even churches) think that worship is not a place for children. At Our Redeemer, we're convinced that nothing could be further from the truth. We want children in church worshipping with their families and learning about Jesus' love for them. Why?

- Even from the earliest of ages, **children are models of faith** from which we can all learn (Luke 18:16,17). Similarly, they learn how to "do church" by watching mom & dad. Model worship for them.
- Our worship format not only encourages families to be together, but is ideally suited for active worship engagement and participation by all, including children, balancing new service elements each week with regular repetition for learning and memorization.
- The **sights and sounds of active children** during worship isn't bad at all – it's a reminder to the adults that the next generation of church leaders is already among us.

We realize that, especially at first, having children in church can be a challenge for parents. To help, we offer the following:

- If your child needs some individual attention to calm them down, an area in the fellowship hall, located just to the left as you exit church, is available. Worship can be watched and heard in this room.
- Other families are willing and ready to help. Let us know if we can offer a hand with your little ones.
- Activity sheets that kids can work on throughout the service are available on the stand in the back.

Series Focus - "Look Up"

In the world's first week, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The pattern was set. In the world's greatest week, God redeemed the world in six days. And on the seventh day, the Son of God rested in the tomb, the Sabbath of all Sabbaths.

When you see the suffering of our Savior on your behalf this week, you may be tempted to look down, hanging your head in shame. You may be tempted to look around at everything disappointing in this world and shake your head. But God encourages you to look up. Your redemption is near!

March 29	Palm Sunday	To See Your King
April 2	Holy Thursday	To Get a Glimpse of Heaven
April 3	Good Friday	To Find the Source of Salvation

Service Focus

We need to be washed clean in the blood of Jesus. Our own need can distract and overwhelm us with the details of our sin and our guilt. Blood always gets our attention, but it can make us feel queasy and uneasy. Jesus wants to lift our eyes above all that to his marvelous promise of forgiveness. Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. The Lord's Supper gives us a glimpse of the heavenly feast where we will eat of the eternal manna and drink from the river of God's delights forever.

Prayer before the Service

O Lord, in the body and blood of Christ you offer us a wondrous gift to receive and to share - forgiveness, life, and salvation. You visibly and personally remind me that my sins are forgiven through Jesus' work on the cross. Help me to shine as a light in the world, loving and caring for all people, that the love of Christ Jesus may be seen in me to all those around. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder

Music Operator: Al Todd

Handbells: Debbie Aitkins, Emily Schroeder, Linka Schroeder, Pam Schueler, Al Todd, Susan Tschech

Instrumentalists: Linka Schroeder (flute), Marrissa Schueler (guitar)

Audio/Visual Booth: Josh Schueler, Jim Everson

Usher: Jim Brown & John Favuzzi

Welcome Table: Linka Schroeder

Communion Setup & Cleanup: Debbie Aitkins

Flowers: Greg & Barb Grunewald

The Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn

When You Woke that Thursday Morning
Christian Worship 416 (st. 1-3)

This 1991 hymn by the Lutheran pastor Jaroslav Vajda, moves us from the upper room to the altar and forward to the eternal feast, meditating on Christ's self-giving love poured out for us in the Sacrament he instituted on the night he was betrayed.

Zechariah's vision of an opened fountain cleansing God's people from sin and impurity finds its fulfillment on Holy Thursday, when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper — giving his body and blood as the very source of that cleansing.

Message

Zechariah 13:1-3

“A Cleansing Fountain”

¹“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

²“On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more,” declares the LORD Almighty. “I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land. ³And if anyone still prophesies, their father and mother, to whom they were born, will say to them, ‘You must die, because you have told lies in the LORD’s name.’ Then their own parents will stab the one who prophesies.”

Confession

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God’s forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. We should not doubt this absolution but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion, first instituted on this night, the members of Christ’s body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord’s Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord’s gift of his

body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Ruth 2:4

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

This prayer has been in use in Christian worship since the mid-1200's.

Forgiven by the shedding of blood, the elders of Israel were given a glimpse of heaven.

First Reading

Exodus 24:1-11

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, ²but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him.”

³When Moses went and told the people all the LORD’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.” ⁴Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. ⁶Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

⁸Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

This hymn was penned by Samuel Kinner (1603-1668), a court physician and councilor in the service of Duke of Liegnitz-Brieg, Poland. The hymn ponders the mystery of how Jesus’ body and blood is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

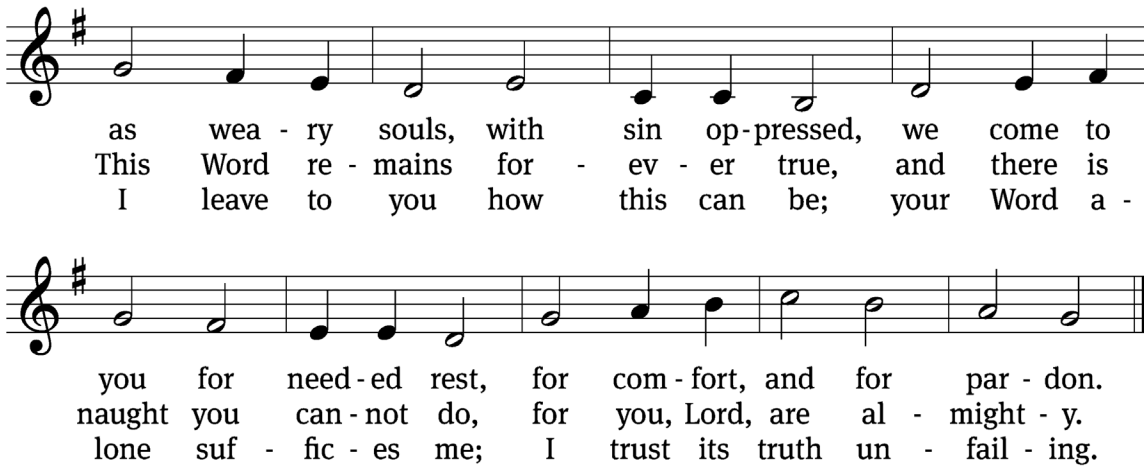
Hymn Response

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared
Christian Worship 667 (st. 1,4,5)

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared this feast for
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, your pre - cious
5 Though rea - son can - not un - der - stand, yet faith this

our sal - va - tion; it is your bod - y
Word be - liev - ing that your true bod - y
truth em - brac - es: your bod - y, Lord, is

and your blood, and at your in - vi - ta - tion
and your blood our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.
e - ven now at once in man - y plac - es.



as wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, we come to
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, and there is
 I leave to you how this can be; your Word a -
 you for need - ed rest, for com - fort, and for par - don.
 naught you can - not do, for you, Lord, are al - might - y.
 lone suf - fic - es me; I trust its truth un - fail - ing.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-28

St. Paul maintains that every time we celebrate the sacrament, our eyes are lifted to the death of Jesus on the cross.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior
Christian Worship 659 (st. 1,2,7,8)

A sixteenth century hymn by Martin Luther which clearly expresses the truths of the Lord’s Supper. In this holy meal is found the real presence of Jesus’ body and blood along with the bread and wine. This special meal mends our broken relationship with God, brought on by the sins we have done. It also gives us a foretaste of the banquet feast in heaven.

Prayer of the Church

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God, pictured in the ancient Passover feast, now giving your own body and pouring out your own blood in Holy Communion. Just as the Passover lambs assured the Israelites of God’s promise to deliver them from death,

strengthen our belief that the bread is your real body and the wine is your real blood, given to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

In the Prayer of the Church, the congregation acts as Christ’s body on earth, lifting prayers for the world, the church, the suffering, and the dying, trusting that the Spirit intercedes for us.

Prepare us to receive this sacrament remembering your death and repenting of our sins.
Unite us by our oneness of faith throughout this congregation and our synod, and love us to the end that we may love others as you have loved us.

We rejoice in our fellow believers who have been instructed in your Word and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, who are now ready to receive Holy Communion.

Equip them with every spiritual blessing for doing your will.

We pray for those absent from the sacrament because of their own neglect.

Call them in your mercy to return and renew their faith.

Keep in your care those unable to receive the sacrament often because they are home-bound, hospitalized, imprisoned, serving in the military, or otherwise separated from the fellowship of believers. Encourage them so that they do not lose hope.

Be gracious to us all and nourish us with this feast, that we remain faithful unto death, and become partakers of the wedding feast of the Lamb. Amen.

The Sacrament

Our Redeemer practices close communion. We ask, therefore, that only members of this congregation and our fellowship (the Wisconsin Synod) partake of the sacrament. If you are a member of another Lutheran denomination or Christian church and would like to commune with us in the future, please speak with our pastor after the service and he would be delighted to explain what that entails.

This dialog (also known as the "preface") leads into the heart of the Sacrament portion of the service. In its exalted sentences, we have the oldest and least changed part of the liturgy. There is evidence of its use in the 100's AD.

The Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Genesis 3:1-15

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly
Lord, God of pow - er, God of might: heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - ly,
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord! Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Sanctus means "holy."
Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century. "Hosanna" means "Save now!" See Isaiah 6:3.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer teaches us how to approach God "as dear children ask their dear Father"—boldly, with trust that he delights in hearing and answering us.

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all. See John 1:29 and Isaiah 53:7.

Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us your peace.
A - men. A - men. A - men.

Distribution

For the distribution, at the direction of the usher, please proceed to the outside aisle of your side of the church. The baptismal font side will proceed first, front to back. The pulpit side will then follow, front to back. Come to the front of church in groups of about 8 people. After your group is dismissed, proceed to the center aisle, dispose of the cup in the basket, and return to your seat.

Questions for Self-Examination before Communion

- Am I sorry for my sins?
- Do I trust Jesus as my Savior?
- Do I believe Jesus' body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Closing Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Psalm 136:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Stripping of the Altar

The post-communion moves liturgically from the upper room in Jerusalem to Gethsemane's Garden in preparation for Good Friday. The altar, which represents the presence of Christ, becomes the focus. As Psalm 88 is read, the altar is solemnly stripped of its vestments and appointments. This is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers.

Psalm 88

¹ LORD, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you.

² May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.

³ I am overwhelmed with troubles and my life draws near to death.

⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like one without strength.

⁵ I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.

⁶ You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.

⁷ Your wrath lies heavily on me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.

⁸ You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them.
I am confined and cannot escape; ⁹ my eyes are dim with grief.

I call to you, LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do their spirits rise up and praise you?

¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction?

¹² Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

¹³ But I cry to you for help, LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ Why, LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?

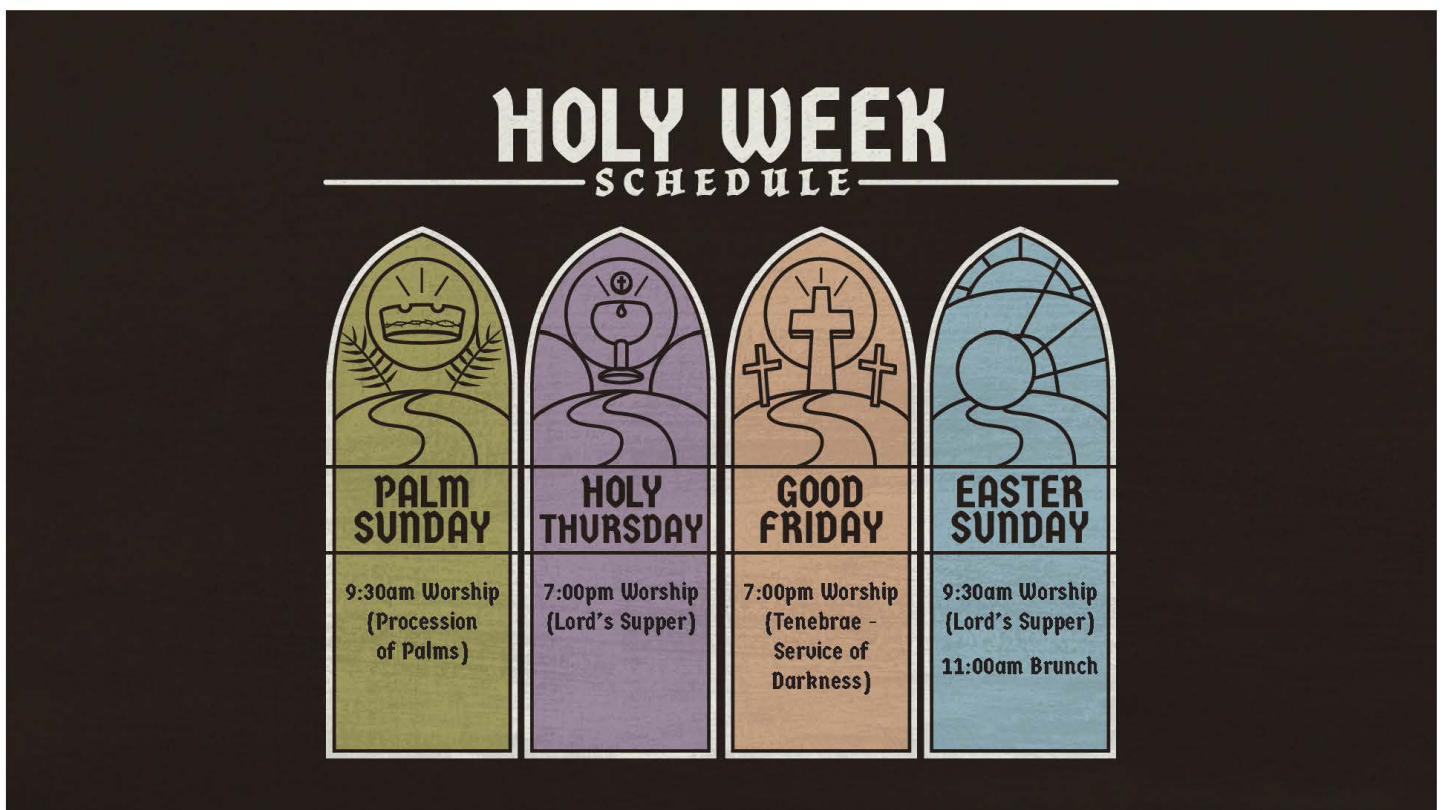
Psalm 88 evokes feelings of sadness and abandonment. The psalmist is so overcome by troubles that he wonders if God will hear him. Surely the loneliness spoken of here has been felt by many suffering Christians ... and especially our Savior Jesus in his passion! The only spark of hope in the entire psalm is in the first verse, which refers to the Savior God of grace (the LORD), the God who saves.

- ¹⁵ From my youth I have suffered and been close to death; I have borne your terrors and am in despair.
- ¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me.
- ¹⁷ All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me.
- ¹⁸ You have taken from me friend and neighbor—darkness is my closest friend. (NIV)

The Lord be with you.

All leave in silence.

*The liturgy ends in silence; the congregation hears no benediction ... yet.
 Rather the Triduum's services flow into one another
 as the congregation disperses to assemble for Good Friday tomorrow evening.
 Thank you for worshipping with us this evening.
 Please join us at our other Holy Week services.*



Acknowledgments

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Offering

For those who wish to give an offering this evening, you can place an offering in the **offering plate** located near the doors where you entered church today. You may also **scan the QR code** to the right with your smartphone's camera to be redirected to a page where you can give an offering. While the members of Our Redeemer support this ministry with their gifts, we understand that you might want to learn more about us before you choose to do the same.

