



Welcome! We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers. Printed copies of the sermon are also available.

Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube

www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar

427 O Darkest Woe

CW 427

1 O darkest woe!

O tears, forth flow!

Has earth so sad a wonder?

God the Father's only Son

now is buried yonder.

2 O sorrow dread!

Our God is dead,

upon the cross extended.

There his love enlivened us

as his life was ended.

- 3 O child of woe:
Who struck the blow
that killed our gracious Master?
“It was I,” your conscience cries,
“I have wrought disaster!”
- 4 All stained with blood
the Lamb of God,
the Bridegroom, lies before you,
pouring out his life that he
may to life restore you.
- 5 O Virgin’s Son,
what you have won
is far beyond all telling:
how our God, detested, died,
hell and devil felling.
- 6 O Jesus blest,
my help and rest,
regard my prayerful weeping:
usher me through death and grave
safe into your keeping.

22 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded *Psalm 22*

Refrain

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and
shame weighed down.

My God, my God, why have you for- / saken
me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from
my cries of / anguish?

I am a worm and / not a man,

scorned by everyone, despised by the / people.

All who see me / mock me;

they hurl insults, shaking / their heads.

“He trusts in the / LORD,” they say,

“let the LORD / rescue him.” *Refrain*

All my bones are / on display;

you lay me in the / dust of death.

A pack of villains en- / circles me;

they pierce my hands / and my feet.

They divide my clothes a- / mong them

and cast lots for my / garment.

But you, LORD, do not be / far from me.

You are my strength; come quickly to / help
me.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. /**

Amen. *Refrain*

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; German version Paul Gerhardt; attr. Bernard of Clairvaux

M: Father, when your Son hung on the cross, he
cried out to you in agony and grief. You gave
him the strength to endure so that death
might be destroyed and life restored. Have
mercy on us all our days and preserve us in
true faith unto life everlasting; through your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Be Seated

First Word: Luke 23:26-34

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized Simon of
Cyrene, who was coming from the country. They
placed the cross on him and made him carry it
behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large crowd of people was

following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹ For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?”³² Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed.³³ When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” They cast lots to divide his garments among them.

Hymn: 435 v1

V1 Jesus, in your dying woes,

even while your lifeblood flows,
craving pardon for your foes:
hear us, holy Jesus!

Second Word: Luke 23:38-43

³⁸ There was also an inscription written above him: “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹ One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Hymn: 435 v2

V2 Jesus, pitying the sighs
of the thief who near you dies,

promising him paradise:
hear us, holy Jesus!

Third Word: John 19:25-27

²⁵ Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.

²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

Hymn: 435 v3

V3 Jesus, loving to the end
her whose heart your sorrows rend,
and your dearest human friend:
hear us, holy Jesus!

Fourth Word: Matthew 27:45-49

⁴⁵ From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “This fellow is calling for Elijah.”

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

Hymn: 435 v4

v4 Jesus, plunged in depths unknown
with our evil foe alone,
while no light from heav’n is shown:
hear us, holy Jesus!

Fifth Word: John 19:28-29

²⁸ After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, “I thirst.”

²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

Hymn: 435 v5

V5 Jesus, in your thirst and pain,
while your wounds the lifeblood drain,
thus fulfilling Scripture's plan:
hear us, holy Jesus!

Sixth Word: John 19:30

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

Hymn: 435 v6

V6 Jesus, all our ransom paid,
all your Father's will obeyed,
by your sufferings perfect made:
hear us, holy Jesus!

Seventh Word: Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness
came over the whole land until the ninth hour,
⁴⁵ while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain
of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus cried out
with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I

commit my spirit!” When he had said this, he
breathed his last.

Hymn: 435 v7

V7 Jesus, all your labor vast,
all your woe and conflict past,
yielding up your soul at last:
hear us, holy Jesus!

Text: Thomas B. Pollock, 1836–1896, abr., alt.

Text: Public domain

Women’s Choir – *Were You There?*

Isaiah 53:1-12

Who has believed our report, and to whom has
the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2He
grew up before him like a tender shoot and like a
root from dry ground. He had no attractiveness
and no
majesty. When we saw him, nothing about his
appearance made us desire him. 3He was
despised and
rejected by men, a man who knew grief, who was
well acquainted with suffering. Like someone
whom

people cannot bear to look at, he was despised, and we thought nothing of him. 4Surely he was taking up our weaknesses, and he was carrying our sufferings. We thought it was because of God that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted, 5but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced. He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has charged all our guilt to him. 7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers, he did not open his mouth. 8He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice, and of his generation, who

even cared? So, he was cut off from the land of the living. He was struck because of the rebellion of my people. 9They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked, but he was given a grave with the rich in his death, because he had done no violence, and no deceit was in his mouth. 10Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and allow him to suffer. Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring. He will prolong his days, and the Lord's gracious plan will succeed in his hand. 11After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life. He will provide satisfaction. Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many, for he himself carried their guilt. 12Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great, and with the strong he will share plunder, because he poured out his life to

death, and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners. He himself carried the sin of many, and he intercedes for the rebels.

Jesus Is God's Perfect Solution

- I. He didn't seem special
- II. He took our sins on himself
- III. He justified us.

Offering

429 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded CW429

- 1 O sacred head, now wounded,
 with grief and shame weighed down,
 now scornfully surrounded,
 with thorns your only crown,
O sacred head, no glory
 now from your face does shine;
yet, though despised and gory,
 I joy to call you mine.

- 2 Men mock and taunt and jeer you,
 they smite your countenance,

though mighty worlds shall fear you
and flee before your glance.
How pale you are with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn!
Your eyes with pain now languish
that once were bright as morn!

3 Now from your cheeks has vanished
their color, once so fair;
from your red lips is banished
the splendor that was there.
Grim death with cruel rigor
has robbed you of your life;
thus you have lost your vigor,
your strength, in this sad strife.

4 My burden in your passion,
Lord, you have borne for me,
for it was my transgression,
my shame, on Calvary.
I cast me down before you;
wrath is my rightful lot.
Have mercy, I implore you;
Redeemer, spurn me not!

5 What language shall I borrow
to thank you, dearest Friend,
for this, your dying sorrow,
your pity without end?
O make me yours forever,
and keep me strong and true;
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love for you.

6 My Savior, then be near me
when death is at my door,
and let your presence cheer me;
forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
but take away my anguish
by virtue of your own!

7 Lord, be my consolation,
my shield when I must die;
remind me of your passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
My eyes will then behold you,

upon your cross will dwell;
my heart will then enfold you—
who dies in faith dies well!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153, abr.
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: One License no. A-716852

STAND

M: Heavenly Father, you are a just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how much our sins offend you. We forget that the wages of sin truly is death. We forget that there actually is a hell. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you.

C: Teach us to look to you as the only one who can make us just and right.

M: Today we are reminded not only of your justice but also of your love. You did not spare your own Son but gave him as a ransom for each one of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of this great love. Give us the peace that the forgiveness of sins brings.

C: When we feel our guilt, point us to the cross, where our guilt was washed away in Jesus' blood.

M: Lord Jesus, we thank you for paying the debt that we could not pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in heaven.

C: For being our perfect substitute, we thank you, Lord Jesus.

M: Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished sacrifice for sin and commended your spirit into the hands of your Father. Teach us to cast the cares of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his love.

C: Give us the courage to face death, knowing that it is the gate to our home in heaven.

M: The cross was once an instrument of death. It is now a sign of life.

**C: Dear Savior, we humbly kneel at the cross in awe of your power and of your love.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen. (sung)

Be seated

431 O Perfect Life of Love CW 431

1 O perfect life of love!
All, all is finished now,
all that he left his throne above
to do for us below.

2 No work is left undone
of all the Father willed;
his toil, his sorrows, one by one,
the Scriptures have fulfilled.

3 No pain that we can share
but he has felt its smart;
all forms of human grief and care
have pierced that tender heart.

4 And on his thorn-crowned head
and on his sinless soul
our sins in all their guilt were laid
that he might make us whole.

5 In perfect love he dies;
for me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
you died to make me free!

6 In ev'ry time of need,
before the judgment throne,
your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
you're merits, not my own.