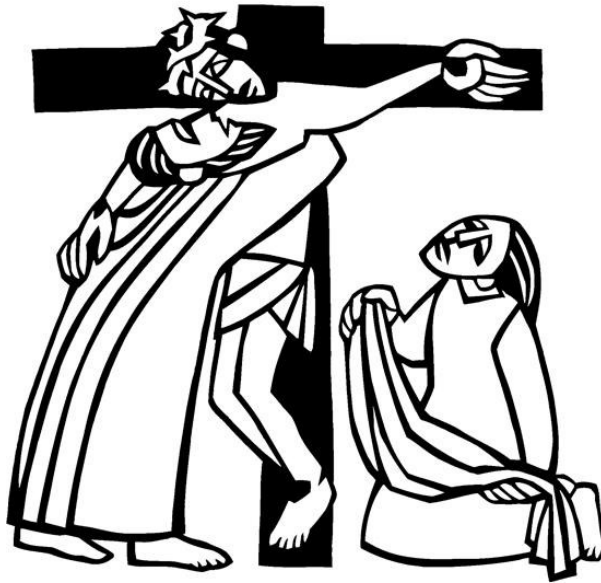


concordia
church



Good Friday

April 3rd, 2026

Music for Reflection

Stripping of the Altar

The altar is stripped, symbolic of our Lord's humiliation before his captors after his arrest. During the stripping of the altar, Psalm 22 is sung. The first verse of Psalm 22, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" is one of the seven last words Christ spoke from the Cross. You can follow the Psalm in the hymnal. Psalms are printed beginning on page 339.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. 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—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. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 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. 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.

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First Reading continued...

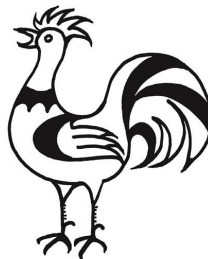
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Nicholas Zook



Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross

Silence for Reflection

Introduction—Theodore DuBois — Andante

Christ's First Word

Luke 23:32-38

"Father, Forgive Them, For They Know Not What They Do"

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When 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. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Silence for Reflection

Theodore DuBois — Andante, Allegro con fuoco

Christ's Second Word

Luke 23:39-43

"Today, You Shall Be With Me in Paradise"

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

Silence for Reflection

Theodore DuBois—Andante, quasi andantino

Christ's Third Word

John 19:23-27

"Woman, Behold Thy Son"

²³When 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. ²⁴So 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."

²⁵And 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. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Silence for Reflection

Theodore DuBois—Andante

Christ's Fourth Word

Matthew 27:41-49

"My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

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. ⁴³He 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, lama 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."

...continued on next page

Christ's Fourth Word con't

Matthew 27:41-49

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."

Silence for Reflection

Theodore DuBois —Andante Maestoso

Christ's Fifth Word

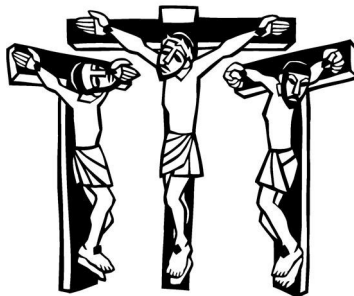
John 19: 28-29

"I Thirst"

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A 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.

Silence for Reflection

Theodore DuBois —Andantino, quasi Andante / Allegro energico



Christ's Sixth Word

John 19:30

"It is Finished"

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

Silence for Reflection

Theodore DuBois —*Andante, dolce espressivo*

Christ's Seventh Word

Luke 23:46-54

"Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit"

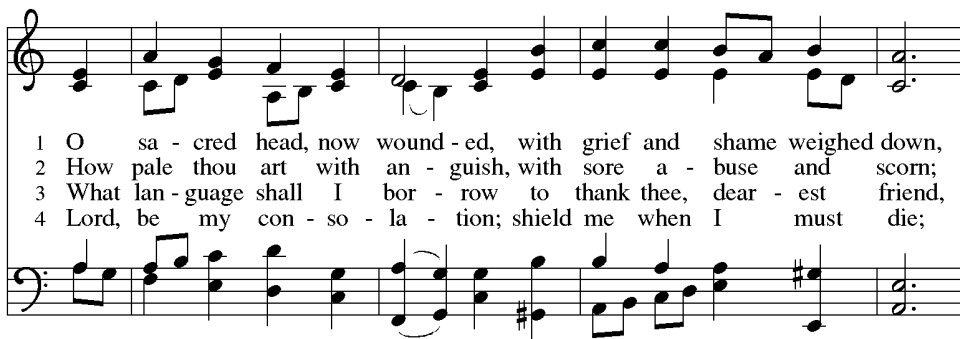
⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."^[a]

⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

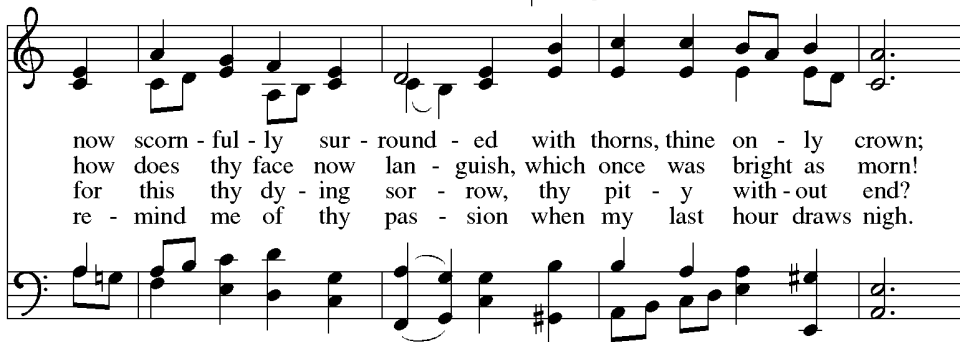
⁵⁰Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, ⁵¹had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning.

Silence for Reflection

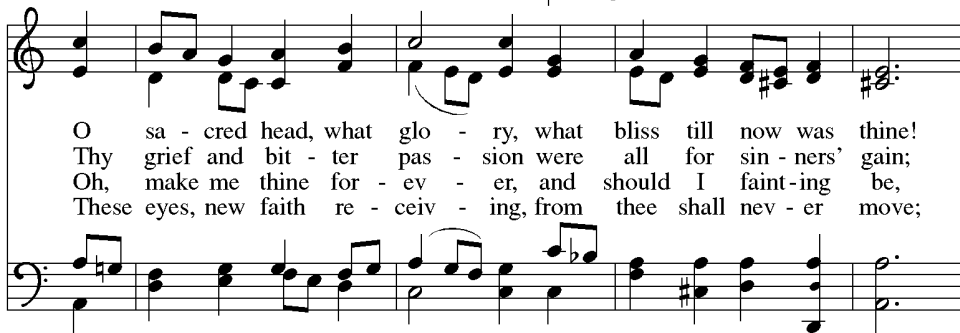
Theodore Dubois—*Andante maestoso / Allegro molto / Andante largo*



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.

The Bidding Prayer

A: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for Pope Leo, Bishop Curry, and Bishop Miller, for our pastors and other ministers, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

P: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.


C: Amen

A: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

C: 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Procession of the Cross

The following exclamation is sung three times as the Cross is processed to the altar.



Behold, the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the world. **Oh, come, let us wor - ship him.**

Closing Hymn

ELW #660 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

We thank today's celebrants:

Deacon: Kim Baratta and Christina Mitchell

Lectors: Kim Baratta, Katherine Beberman, Christina Mitchell, Guenter Seidel, Wilma Stevens, Linda Storbeck, Marne Turner

Greeter: John DeCorah

A note about this evening's music...

Our Concordia Lutheran Church Sanctuary Choir, Soloists and Guest Artists present Théodore Dubois epic (1837-1924) "The Seven Last Words of Christ," corresponding musically to the seven distinct statements spoken by Christ during the crucifixion. Dubois wrote the work in 1867 for his choir at Saint Clotilde in Paris. The work has become a tradition for Holy Week services throughout the world. Beginning with a soprano narrative to the traditional Tenebrae text "O Vos Omnes" (O all you who pass by . . .) from Lamentations 1:12, originally describing the destruction of Jerusalem, it is text heavily adopted in Christian tradition depicting the suffering of Christ on the cross and the sorrow of his Mother Mary. Successive movements take each of Christ's final statements and combine chorus and soloists into a dramatic narrative. Following the Seventh Word and its immediate melancholy and earthquake in the score, Dubois concludes his work with the medieval antiphon "Adoramus Te, Christe" (Christ, we do all adore you . . .)

With thanks for this narrative taken from Northminster Baptist Church and St. Louis Church Concert Series.

Musicians

Soloists:

Soprano: Sarah Collins, Christine Cummins, Kimberly Jones, Kunying Li, Marisa Mladenovic, Katherine Petersen

Tenor: Benjamin Burney, Cornelius Johnson III

Baritone: Ryan Alexander, Carl Ratner, Avery Sujkowski

Choral Ensemble:

Soprano: Sarah Collins, Christine Cummins, Kimberly Jones, Kunying Li, Marisa Mladenovic, Wilma Stevens, Linda Storbeck

Mezzo: Ariel Andrew, Kat Dalin, Jade Dashá, Rose Guccione, Bates Larson, Maggie Larson, Katherine Petersen, Betsy Ries

Tenor: Benjamin Burney, Cornelius Johnson III, Mary-Ann Lupa, Rodell Rosel, Logan Van Lerberghe

Baritone: Ryan Alexander, Carl Ratner, Brendan Sanchez, Avery Sujkowski

Organist: Benjamin Garcia

Trumpet: David Nakazono

Conductor: Paul D. Dykstra

Announcements

Help us Decorate for Easter!

If you are able to stay after tonight's service to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, we would appreciate your time and generosity! Many hands make light work, so the more volunteers we have, the faster the work will go!

Join us Easter Sunday!

We hope that you will make plans to come back to Concordia Church this Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! Sunday morning's service will feature special performances of Handel's Messiah, parts II and III, performed by the Concordia Church choir, guest vocalists, and Midtown Strings.

Kids' Easter Activities

All children are invited to church early on Easter morning for some Easter fun! Join us on April 5th beginning at 9am in the gym for crafts, games, and other fun holiday activities. This is FREE for all children and we hope our families will make plans to join this fun event! If you have any questions, please reach out to Arlene Calderone at amjcalderone@gmail.com.

Sunday School

The next Sunday School session is April 19th during worship. The lesson is about communion and will be part 1 of 2. Children will hear the children's message with Pastor Zook and will then join their teachers in the gym for the lesson. Children ages 4-11 years old are invited; parents are welcome to join the fun!

Announcements

6th Annual Concordia Cup Golf Event

Concordia Place hosts its annual golf event on June 15th at River Forest Country Club. Golfers are wanted! If you are interested in playing, or are interested in sponsoring the golf tournament, pick up a flyer in the back of the sanctuary for more information .

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Support the **ministries of Concordia Church** through your offerings. There are multiple ways for you to give:

- 1) Mobile: Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and follow the link or scan the QR code here
- 2) Online: Visit www.onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
- 3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church.





concordia church
3855 N Seeley Ave

JOIN US DURING *Holy Week*

Palm Sunday - March 29th

*Worship at 10am
Procession of palms & story of Christ's passion*

Good Friday - April 3rd

*Worship at 7pm
Hear 'The Seven Last Words of Christ' by Theodore Dubois
performed by soloists and Concordia Church choir*

Easter Sunday - April 5th

*9am Children's Easter Activity in the gym
10am Worship featuring
"The Messiah" Parts II & III by G.F. Handel*

All services available in-person and via livestream
Worship details at concordiafaith.org/worship



concordia
church

A Concordia family of ministries serving people and communities
concordiaministries.org | concordiafaith.org

You're Invited

Join us in honoring Bonnie Lopez for
her leadership in bringing
Concordia Place to Avondale.

AT 4PM, APRIL 16, 2026

Swartz Pavilion
Concordia Place
3300 N. Whipple St., Chicago, IL

RSVP with the QR code below





Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

www.concordiafaith.org

773-281-1225

Concordia on Seeley

3855 N. Seeley

Sunday mornings:

10:00am Worship (In-person & virtual options)

Join the 10:00am livestream on Sunday mornings or view recordings of our past services on our YouTube channel.

 **YouTube** Concordia Church Chicago

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Holy Communion happens at every service and is open to all baptized.

Restrooms are located in the fellowship hall; exit the sanctuary through the back and follow the stairwell downstairs.

Masks and hand sanitizer are located in the back of the sanctuary should you need either.

Questions? Contact Desirae, Parish Admin, at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org

Copyright Information:

Below is a list of all the songs that we are using in today's liturgy with their copy right information located with them.

Hymn

ELW #351 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612;
arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Closing Hymn

ELW #660 "Lift High the Cross"

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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Notes on the Liturgy:

1. All liturgical music is from ELW, Setting 4
2. The Liturgy is printed from The Evangelical Lutheran Worship and is used with permission.
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