

The Weeping Tree

FOREWORD

Outside the city wall stands the weeping tree. In silence she lifts her weary arms against the darkened sky.

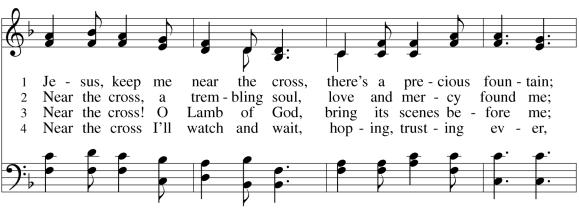
She is a gathering place for the sorrowful and a sanctuary for the grieving. Her shadows are a hiding place for the oppressed and a refuge for the lost. Under her graceful canopy there is a comfort and beneath her towering presence there is shelter from the storm.

Long ago, she was planted on a windswept hill where all could see her solitary silhouette and, though fixed in barren soil, her roots grew deep into the hearts of all who drew near to her.

Watered by a thousand tears, her sylvan branches once held a perfect harvest, for heaven had chosen her rugged frame to be the bearer of grace. There in her crooked and twisted arms she cradled Jesus, the Hope of the world. She who was cut and fashioned by hatred and violence became a tree of life for the world.

Her arms are outstretched still.

JOSEPH M. MARTIN



We Gather in Silence

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

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Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Words from Isaiah 52:13—53:10

The Lord says, "My servant will succeed in his task; he will be highly honored. Many people were shocked when they saw him; he was so disfigured that he hardly looked human.

But now many nations will marvel at him, and kings will be speechless with amazement. They will see and understand something they had never known." The people reply, "Who would have believed what we now report? Who could have seen the Lord's hand in this?

It was the will of the Lord that his servant grow like a plant taking root in dry ground. He had no dignity or beauty to make us take notice of him.

There was nothing attractive about him, nothing that would draw us to him.

We despised him and rejected him; he endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at him—we ignored him as if he were nothing.

But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.

All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved. He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word.

He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people.

He was placed in a grave with those who are evil, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie."

The Lord says, "It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so he will see his descendants; he will live a long life, and through him my purpose will succeed."

Bidding Prayer

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

Silent prayer.

- P: Almighty and eternal God,
- C: 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. Amen.
- L: Let us pray for the leaders of the local church and the church universal. We pray that the Lord turn the hearts of the leaders of the Russian Orthodox church towards their sisters and brothers in Ukraine. That the Christians of Russia hear the cries of the suffering body of Christ and seek peace, not war. We pray for our neighboring church, St. Sophia Ukrainian Catholic, for Epiphanius I of Kyiv, Bartholomew, the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople, Francis, Bishop of Rome; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Geoff, the Secretary of the World Evangelical Alliance; our Bishops, Susan and Larry; Pastor Markus, Heidi; Rose; council and committee members; all servants of the church; and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

- P: Almighty and eternal God,
- C: 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. Amen.

L: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

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- P: Almighty and eternal God,
- C: 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. Amen.
- L: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

- P: Almighty and eternal God,
- C: 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. Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

- P: Almighty and eternal God,
- C: 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. Amen.
- L: Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

- P: Almighty and eternal God,
- C: 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. Amen.
- L: Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

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- P: Almighty and eternal God,
- C: 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. Amen.

L: 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 **Cantata** (Please do not applaud during the cantata.)

The Weeping Tree

by Joseph M. Martin

Prologue

The Weeping Tree Theme

Upon the wind there comes a call, a whisper soft and low, a lonesome cry that fills the night and echoes through the soul.
It stirs the seekers tender heart. It bids them come and see, to kneel in shadows cast by grace, to touch the weeping tree.
Against the sky the timbers rise, a silhouette of grace, a rugged throne for heaven's own, the sinner's hiding place.
Its burdened arms reach out to all; they draw the world to see the price of love is paid in blood upon the weeping tree.
O come to the place where promise lives

and rest where hope begins, where crimson leaves adorn the ground, a gift from graceful winds.

O come and walk the winding path that leads to Calvary.

Come lay your burdens down and rest

beneath the weeping tree.

Come lay your burdens down and rest beneath the weeping tree.

Of Tears and Sorrow

Surely He hath borne our griefs, and hath carried our sorrows. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows, carried our sorrows, carried our sorrows. Surely He hath borne our griefs.

He was wounded for all our transgressions. He was bruised for all our sin. And the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.

*Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. . . Surely He hath borne our griefs, and hath carried our sorrows.

*Translation: Lord, have mercy.

Lamentation of the Cross

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown. How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, where the blood of Christ was shed, perfect Man on thee did suffer. Perfect God on thee has bled!

Faithful cross above all others, standing for eternity! Rugged wood and cruel branches, perfect fruit is hung on Thee.

How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

Wondrous Love, Wondrous Cross

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!What wondrous love is this, O my soul!What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul.

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

See from His head, His hands, His feet,

sorrow and love flow mingled down,

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? *Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

Alas, and Did My Saviour Bleed?

Alas, and did my Savior bleed and did my Sov'reign die? Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I? Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut His glories in, when Christ the mighty Maker died for man, the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while Calv'ry's cross appears; dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my heart with tears . . .

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But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe. Here, Lord, I give myself away 'Tis all that I can do. *Kyrie eleison! Kyrie eleison! Alas and did my Savior bleed and did my Sov'reign die!

Without His Cross

Without His tears there is no comfort. Without His death there is no life. Without His blood there is no pardon. Without His cross there is no crown.

Without His shame there is no glory. Without His grief there is no joy. Without His stripes there is no healing. Without His cross there is no crown.

Lamb of God, You bring salvation, and with Your grace our hearts are sealed. Lord, with Your tears of love You bathe our sorrows. In Your eyes we stand revealed.

Without His tears there is no comfort. Without His death there is no life. Without His blood there is no pardon. Without His cross there is no crown.

Epilogue

We leave in silence. If wished, please take some time for a prayer in front of the cross.

Offering

As you leave, you may place your offering onto the plate located at the back of the church or use the online options available on our website.

Thank You

to all those who made contributions to this bulletin and members who shared their gifts in today's service:

Worship Planners, Altar Guild, Glory Lutheran Church Worship Choir,	
Piano:	Lynnette Woodrow
Director:	Pat Becker
Organ:	Esther Madsen (flute and oboe)
Violin:	David Mitchell, Callum Mitchell
French horn:	Peter Clark
Percussion:	Owen Mitchell
Narrators:	Mike Lee, Rhonda Berg
Placing of symbols:	Glenda Nelson, Maggie Hensel, Paul
	Berg, David Hauf, Anikah Woodrow,
	Brielle Woodrow
AV Techs:	Brett Woodrow, Noah McKinnon
Greeters:	Debbie Kehn
Ushers:	Glenda Nelson
Church Lock Up:	Pat Becker

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22577 Highway 16 Sherwood Park AB T8A 4T7



Pastor Markus Wilhelm Phone: (780) 416-9594 E-mail: glory.office@glorylutheran.ca Check out our Website: www.glorylutheran.ca