Good Friday

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
and participants from the
Archbold Area Ministerial Association

April 3, 2026 - 7:30 pm

Welcome to St. Martin's Lutheran Church *and a special welcome to those from area community churches representing the Archbold Area Ministerial Association.*

Why do we worship on Good Friday? Good Friday emerged historically as preparation for Easter. Historians believe that before Friday became a commemoration of the death of Christ, it was a simple day of fasting and preparation for Easter. Fasting before Easter was not an invention of Christians. Many early Christians would have known or practiced the Jewish tradition of a day-long fast in preparation for the celebration of Passover that our Jewish brothers and sisters still participate in. Over the centuries this day began to have significance as a day of worship to remember Jesus' death by crucifixion.

The setting for our worship tonight is a bare chancel. At the conclusion of our worship last evening, Maundy Thursday, all adornments to the sanctuary and the altar were removed, preparing us for tonight's worship. Through the ritual of this stripping of the altar, we recall that Jesus was abandoned by his followers, stripped of his dignity, and left to face the cross alone. No benediction was given last evening nor will one be given tonight because these Holy Week services are one continuous worship service.

We departed worship last evening in silence and we begin tonight's worship in silence.

As you prepare for worship tonight, you are encouraged to read and meditate on Psalm 22 which can be found on page 19. The psalm shifts from themes of abandonment, even persecution, to promise and hope. These themes are evident throughout our worship tonight because we do not focus on our personal grief at the death of Jesus, but we focus on the glory of the cross and its message of salvation.

The basis of our worship tonight is the Passion story as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.

+ HELP US CREATE A SACRED SPACE TONIGHT +
To facilitate a worshipful atmosphere, please <u>turn off</u> <u>all cell phones</u> and electronic devices for the duration of the worship service.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the Congregation

(For worship preparation, you are invited to reflect on Psalm 22 on page 19)

WELCOME – *Steve Basselman*

Please stand

HYMN *"My Song is Love Unknown"*

5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 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.

7 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

INVOCATION

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

Amen

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Let us now pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation…

The Leader ends each petition:

God of our salvation…

The congregation responds:

Hear our prayer

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

in whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.

Congregation is seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING + Isaiah 53:1-6

[1]Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
[2]He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
[3]He was despised and rejected by others, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
[4]Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.
[5]But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
[6]We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

OFFERING OF GIFTS **PRELUDE ON "RHOSYMEDRE"**

STRING ORCHESTRA *-RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS*

***Tonight's offering** will be given to the local FISH Food Pantry*

MEDITATION **PASTOR STEVE BASSELMAN**

Darkness of Betrayal and Desertion

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Matthew 26:47-56

47 In the garden, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With
him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the
elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is
the man; arrest him." 49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed
him. 50 Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. 51 With that, one of Jesus'
companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest,
cutting off his ear.

52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will
die by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my
disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled
that say it must happen in this way?" 55 At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a
rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the
temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But this has all taken place that the
writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

ANTHEM — *"O God, Be Merciful to Me"*

ST. MARTIN'S CHANCEL CHOIR

Thomas Campion/Matthew Wachtman

With broken heart and contrite sigh,
A trembling sinner, Lord, I cry:
Thy pard'ning grace is rich and free:
O God, be merciful to me.

I smite upon my troubled breast,
With deep and conscious guilt oppress,
Christ and His cross my only plea:
O God, be merciful to me.

Far off I stand with tearful eyes,
Nor dare uplift them to the skies;
But Thou dost all my anguish see:
O God, be merciful to me.

Nor alms, nor deeds that I have done,
Can for a single sin atone;
To Calvary alone I flee:
O God, be merciful to me.

And when, redeemed from sin and hell,
With all the ransomed throng I dwell,
My raptured song shall ever be,
God has been merciful to me.

PRAYER

Merciful and Eternal God, we confess that our hearts are often entangled in schemes, fears, and desires that lead us away from your will. Yet our Lord Jesus Christ, who knows the darkness within us, did not shrink from drinking the cup of suffering you placed before him. In your abundant compassion, forgive us, renew us, and restore us. Guide your church so that, even in persecution and testing, we may lay down the sword, take up our cross, walk in the ways of peace, and faithfully embrace the mission of service you have entrusted to us.

Amen

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

have mercy on us.

First Candle extinguished

Darkness of Denial

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Matthew 26:57-75

57 Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers
of the law and the elders had assembled. 58 But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to
the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.
59 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so
that they could put him to death. 60 But they did not find any, though many false witnesses
came forward. Finally two came forward 61 and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to
destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

62 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is
this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" 63 But Jesus remained silent. The
high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the
Christ, the Son of God."

64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see
the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of
heaven."

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we
need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. 66 What do you think?"
"He is worthy of death," they answered.

67 Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him 68 and said,
"Prophesy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also
were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

70 But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people
there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

72 He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are
one of them, for your accent gives you away." 74 Then he began to call down curses on
himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had
spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside
and wept bitterly.

HYMN ***"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"***

PRAYER

Almighty and Eternal God, yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, but ours are the hearts that tremble, the knees that shake, the eyes that cannot see, and the flesh that is weak. Give us faith, that we may not deny you, but acknowledge you as the way, the truth, and the life. May your will, and not ours, be done.

Amen

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

have mercy on us.

Second Candle extinguished

Darkness of Judgment

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Matthew 27:11-26

[1]Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. [2]They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. [11]Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

[12]When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. [13]Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" [14]But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

[15]Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. [16]At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. [17]So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" [18]For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

[19]While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

[20]But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

[21]"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

[22]"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

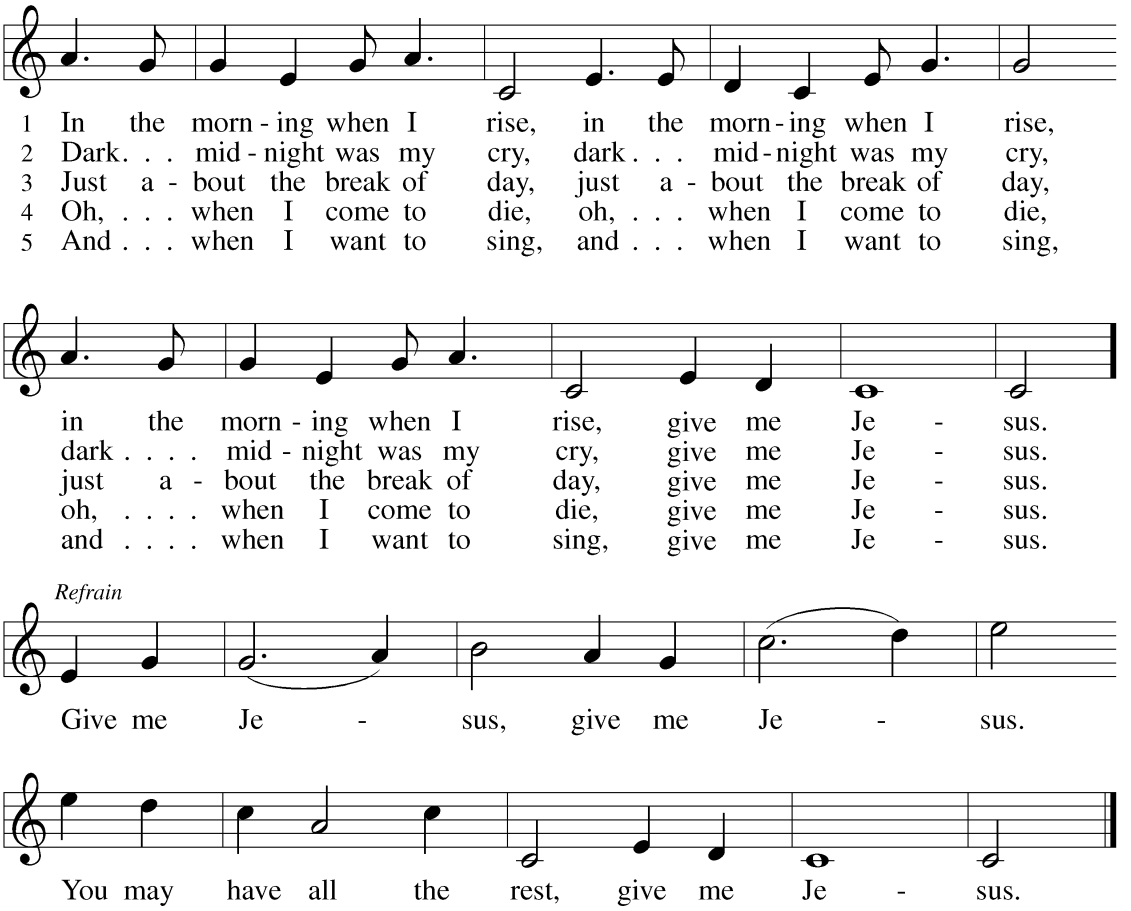
[23]"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

[24]When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" [25]All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

[26]Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

HYMN *"Give Me Jesus"*



PRAYER

Almighty and Eternal God, the kingdoms and authorities of the world mock your Son and his Word. Take from us the desire to choose people of violence. Guide us away from poor decisions and bring us to your kingdom of truth.

Amen

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

have mercy on us.

Third Candle extinguished

Darkness of Suffering

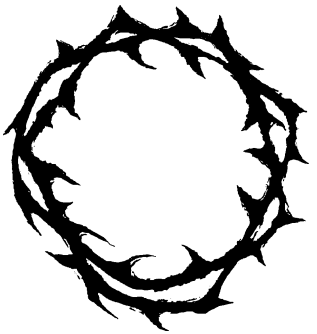
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Matthew 27:27-38

27Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the
whole company of soldiers around him. 28They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on
him, 29and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a
staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the
Jews!" they said. 30They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head
again and again. 31After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own
clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

32As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they
forced him to carry the cross. 33They came to a place called Golgotha (which means
The Place of the Skull). 34There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but
after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35When they had crucified him, they divided up
his clothes by casting lots. 36And sitting down, they kept watch over him
there. 37Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS,
THE KING OF THE JEWS. 38Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right
and one on his left.



HYMN ***"Were You There?"***

PRAYER

Almighty and Eternal God, the powers of darkness surrounding us are fearsome. When we are accused, we are tempted to shrink from our witness. Grant us the courage to speak your truth boldly, even though our face may be given to those who chastise us.

Amen

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

have mercy on us.

Fourth Candle extinguished

Darkness of Death

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Matthew 27:45-56

45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. 46 About
the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"*—
which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar,
put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, "Now leave him
alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
The earth shook and the rocks split. 52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many
holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs, and after
Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the
earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he
was the Son of God!"

55 Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus
from Galilee to care for his needs. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the
mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

ANTHEM

ST. MARTIN'S CHANCEL CHOIR

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

by Scott Roberts

Go to dark Gethsemane,
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall!
O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete:
"It is finished!" Hear the cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

PRAYER

Almighty and Eternal God, in the night of death, Christ Jesus was laid in a tomb in a garden. Stir in us the confidence of hope to await the dazzling light of dawn in that garden where we shall join you, as you walk again in your new creation. May we be witnesses to the eternal hope of grief becoming joy and life rising from death.

Amen

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

have mercy on us.

Fifth Candle extinguished

Darkness of the Tomb

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Matthew 27:57-60

57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph,
who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus'
body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it
in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the
rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

SOLEMN REPROACHES

The Solemn Reproaches are an ancient text of western Christianity associated with Good Friday. The reproaches follow the pattern of Psalm 78 and Micah 6. Psalm 78 recounts God's continuing acts of faithfulness and Israel's repeated rebellion. Following each sung or spoken reproach the congregation responds with a sung prayer for mercy.

O my people, my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me!
I brought you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism.
I led you through the wilderness, fed you with manna,
brought you through tribulation, gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

O my people, my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me!
I led you with a pillar of cloud,
but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate.
I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom,
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me,
and you prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

O my people, my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me!
I planted you as my chosen and fairest vineyard
and made you branches of my vine;
but you pierced my side with a spear.
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,
but when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink,
and you prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

O my people, my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me!
I gave you a royal scepter,
and gave you the keys to the kingdom,
but you have given me a crown of thorns.
I gave you my peace, which the world cannot give,
but you draw the sword and strike in my name,
and you prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

O my people, my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me!
I washed your feet as a sign of my love
and offered you my body and blood,
but you scatter, deny and abandon me.
I prayed that all may be one in the Father and me,
but you continue to quarrel and divide, casting lots for my clothing,
and you prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

O my people, my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me!
I came to you as the least of your brothers,
hungry with no food, thirsty with no water,
stranger with no welcome,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

Sixth Candle extinguished

CHANCEL CHOIR ***"Christ We Do All Adore You"***

from THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST - T. Dubois

The Paschal Candle is removed.

The Paschal Candle is an ancient symbol of the Church, reminding us of the presence of Jesus among His people. The candle is kept near the Baptismal font and is lit for Baptisms (reminding us that we have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection), Funerals (reminding us that in death we have gained the promise of resurrection to eternal life), and the season of Easter.

Philippians 2:6-8

While he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being born in human likeness and being found in human form he humbled himself, and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.

A drum roll is played signifying the earthquake at Jesus' death and the closing of the tomb.

Everyone is asked to leave in silence following the return of the lit Paschal Candle
Go in peace.

Participating in Tonight's Worship:

Music Director	Matthew Wachtman
Pianist	Rick Breier
Violin	Trevor Achtyes, Carmen Martin, Julie Bame, Corinne Bame
Viola	Lydia Bloomer, Sam Atkinson
Cello	Grace Bame
Double Bass	Priscilla Bloomer
Acolyte	Andi Pinter
Drum	Mike Short
Readers	Pastor Matt Weaver (Lockport Mennonite)
	MacKenna Whitacre
	Bill Phelps
	Patsy Miller

Scripture quotations are from *New International Version* © 1984, International Bible Society
Solemn Reproaches Text: alt. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ©2006 Augsburg Fortress.
Musical setting by Steve Basselman

April 5 - Easter Sunday

7:00 am **Easter Vigil Sunrise Service with Holy Communion**

Worship begins in darkness. And while we remember the story of God's salvation history through scripture, we quickly reset the sanctuary to celebrate the feast of victory.

8:00 am **Easter Breakfast**

A free-will offering will be received to support ongoing youth ministries,

8:45 **Easter Egg Hunt**

9:00 am **Sunday School** (ending at 9:45)

10:00 am **Festival Service with Holy Communion**

The celebration continues! All the festive flare we can gather is included in the climax of our Easter festival. The Chancel Choir invites you to join them in our annual tradition of singing the "Hallelujah Chorus"

PSALM 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
[2]O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.
[3]Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
[4]In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
[5]To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
[6]But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.
[7]All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
[8]"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver — let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"
[9]Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
[10]On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
[11]Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
[12]Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; [13]they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.
[14]I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; [15]my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
[16]For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled; [17]I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; [18]they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.
[19]But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!
[20]Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!
[21]Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
[22]I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
[23]You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
[24]For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
[25]From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
[26]The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!
[27]All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
[28]For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
[29]To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
[30]Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD, [31]and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.