

# Musical Meditation for April 9

Maundy Thursday

## Bible Reading - Matthew 26:26-35

### Music Selection: "There is a Green Hill Far Away", tune MEDITATION

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895. Music: John H. Gower, 1855–1922

This arrangement by Lani Smith, 2003

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1. There is a green hill far away, without a city wall,  
Where the dear Lord was crucified, Who died to save us all.
2. We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains He had to bear;  
But we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.
3. There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin,  
He only could unlock the gate of heav'n and let us in.
4. Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved, and we must love him too, died our sins to bear;  
And trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do.

## Thoughts

This hymn is not in our current hymnbook, but it is a relevant (and old favorite) hymn for Holy Week, it anticipates the crucifixion. I used the hymn tune for the postlude of the Maundy Thursday mini-service; you can view on the church's Facebook site, <https://www.facebook.com/PresbyKasson/>. (I played it on the organ for the service, but decided to try a more orchestral rendition of the same arrangement of this hymn on my electronic keyboard, which is what you'll hear here.) Pastor Carl's sermon title is "Longing", in which he addresses the events of the Bible reading, specifically the first communion, and Jesus' revelations of what will be coming in the next few days and what the disciples' response will be, to their dismay.

*For our prayers, consider the magnitude of Jesus' love and suffering for us, the personal angst he had to go through knowing what he would be facing in his final days. What can we do to share his love and express our gratitude for his sacrifice? "Love your neighbor as yourself". We should also continue to pray for recovery of the increasing numbers of people worldwide affected by the coronavirus, with appreciation and support for the courageous workers who are selflessly laboring, at personal risk, to heal the sick and keep our society functioning, ensuring that basic needs for food and shelter are met on a continuing basis. And, finally, taking our personal concerns to God.*