



April 10 / Good Friday

### **Matthew 27:62-65**

The chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”

### **To ponder**

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

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to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

—“What wondrous love is this,” ELW 666, st. 1

### **What wondrous love is this?**

“The last deception would be worse than the first.” In the minds of the chief priests and Pharisees, just what is the first deception—that Jesus was able to rally a following? Are they jealous of Jesus’ popularity? Do they fear a possible uprising? Or are the chief priests, Pharisees, Pilate—and all the people who surround Jesus—unable to come to terms with his wondrous love?

Political leaders tend to rely on power, maneuvering, and political clout. In their minds, Jesus’ first deception might be “love wins.” But as the chief priests and Pharisees continue to plan and plot, we are just one resurrected breath away from the truth.

Fast-forward two thousand years. Many people still rely on power and political clout to make their way in the world. It is up to the baptized community of the Crucified One to both carry and live his message: Love wins.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul? It is the wondrous love of Jesus who is slumbering in the tomb and about to come to life forever.

### **Prayer**

Gracious, merciful, living God, we offer you our thanks and praise for the greatest love the world has ever seen or known. Help us to bring your wondrous love into the world. Amen.

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