

GOOD FRIDAY April 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Tonight's service is a devotion adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus. Traditionally, there have been as many as fourteen stations. Of these, eight are based directly on events of scripture and seven are included in this rite. Each station includes sentences and responses, scripture verses from the passion according to St. John, a prayer, and a musical offering. Our worship proclaims the saving blood and cross of Christ and concludes with adoration of the crucified as we venerate the cross.

+ ALL GATHER IN SILENCE +

The assembly stands as the ministers and other worship leaders enter.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We remember

how the sky went dark.

We remember

how his mother was there.

We remember

how people mocked him.

We remember

how his friends fled.

We remember,

how in the midst of all that, Jesus still chose love.

A brief silence.

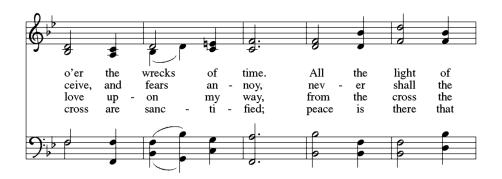
Let us pray.

God who asked for a drink, God who was killed by the state, God who offered love and grace even from the cross—we are at a loss for words. What do we do with this day? The air is heavy. Our hearts are heavy. The suffering of this world feels particularly close, spilling out all over us. And yet, even in this space, we know you are moving. Even in this space, we know that this is not the end. Give us the heart to hear this story and the courage to let it change us. Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW 324







Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

Please be seated.

+ JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH +

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pilate entered his headquarters and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor." ¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

God did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all.

HYMN

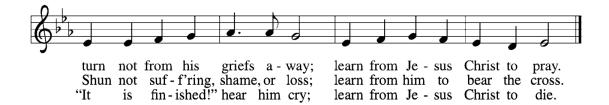
Go to Dark Gethsemane ELW 347 (harmony)



- 1 Go to dark Geth-sem a ne, all who feel the tempt er's pow'r;
- 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
- 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a dor ing at his feet,



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. oh, the worm-wood and the gall! mark that mir - a - cle of time, Watch with him one bit - ter hour; Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained! God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

+ JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS +

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to

Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

ANTHEM "Surely He Has Borne Our Sorrows" – Sorenson Sanctuary Choir & Instrumentalists

Surely, He has borne our sorrows and our failures.
Surely, He has carried every heartache, He has walked our path of grief.
Surely, He has promised to be with us to the end, and by His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we've turned each one to our own way; each selfish thought, every prideful word.

But the Lord has laid on Him the transgressions of us all.

Surely...and by His stripes, we'll know Him. We all are healed.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

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

+ JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS +

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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,

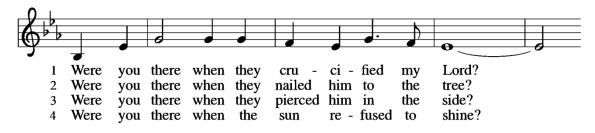
"They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

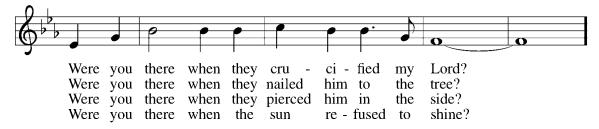
²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Insult has broken my heart, and I am weak.

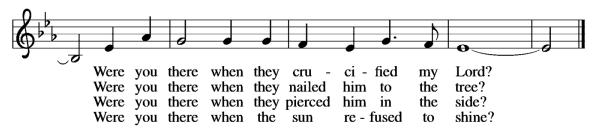
I looked for comforters and I found none.











Text: African American spiritual

Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual

Let us pray.

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

+ JESUS SEES HIS MOTHER +

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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.

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

VOLUNTARY

"What Wondrous Love" – Raney Handbell Ensemble, Flute & Piano

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 dreadful curse for my soul?

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme I will sing.

Let us pray.

Teach your church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

+ JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS +

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

ANTHEM

"Forsaken" - Forrest Sanctuary Choir, Violin & Cello

How long, O God, will you neglect my prayer? Will You forget these tears of dark despair? Yet not My will, but Yours alone be done: forsake not them but Me, Your sinless Son.

I, Christ the Son, obey Your great command, enduring punishment for human sin. As Son and silent Lamb, I choose the path: accept rejection to appease Your wrath.

O why, My God, have You forsaken me? Why have You now refused My final plea? Though I cry out in sorrow, pain, and fear, You turn Your back, in silence disappear.

I, Christ the Son, bear all their sin alone, embracing judgment from Your glorious throne. As Son and spotless Lamb, I shed My blood to bring them boldly to Your face, my God.

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever.

Amen

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

+ JESUS' BODY REMOVED FROM THE CROSS +

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

None of his bones shall be broken.

They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

VOLUNTARY

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" – Dobrinski Handbell Ensemble

Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So

clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name.

Amen.

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

+ JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB +

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

You will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see corruption.

ANTHEM

"No Crying He Makes" - Davis Sanctuary Choir

Again, God's Son sleeps. Again, no crying he makes. Again, his body is wrapped against the cold.

Where are the shepherds? Where are the kings? Joseph, where are you? Angels guard the door, but not one angel sings. Where is the hay for this cold room? Every manger knows a tomb, my Jesus, every manger knows a tomb.

God does not slumber, but God's Son sleeps Death's cold dark sleep. God's Son sleeps. No crying he makes. His body is wrapped against the cold.

Let us pray.

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day. Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he

lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

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

Please stand, as you are able.

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Let us pray.

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

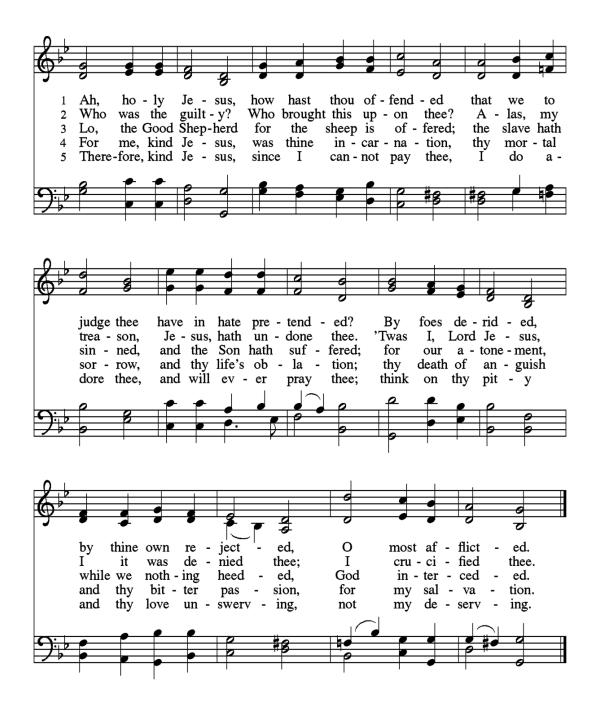
To Christ our Lord who loves us, washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus ELW 349 Found on p. 13





Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt. Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Be seated.

BIDDING PRAYER

Let us pray, siblings in Christ, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

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. **Amen.**

Let us pray for Elizabeth and Bill, our bishops, for Cris, our pastor, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for our siblings who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers for the people you called and elected as your own, that they may find peace and hope in the covenantal promises of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

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

Silent prayer.

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. **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

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.

Amen.

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

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.

+ ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS +

Behold the wood of the cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

Come, let us worship.

Our Redeemer suffered death, was buried and rose again for our sake.

With love let us adore him, aware of our needs.

During this time, the ministers and the faithful come to the chancel to venerate the cross. Those wishing to do so may light a candle and place it at the foot of the cross.

Songs and hymns reflecting on the mystery of the crucified Savior are offered in alternation with periods of silence.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351 (harmony) Found on p. 18

Silence is kept.

ANTHEM

"The Bitter Cup" - Hoelscher Sanctuary Choir & Cello

How bitter was the cup He drank on our behalf, consuming all the dregs of sin to satisfy God's wrath Our Lord, the Righteous One, was ridiculed and cursed. Alone He drank the bitter cup that we may never thirst.

How dreadful was the pain He suffered in our stead: the piercing of His hands and feet, the bruising of His head. Our Lord, the Wounded One, released His final breath, obedient to His Father's will, faithful unto death.

How somber was the tomb wherein His body lay. But sin could not defeat its foe, nor death retain its prey. Our Lord, the Living One, assumed His rightful seat, exalted to His Father's side, redemption now complete.

Silence is kept.

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ELW 803 (harmony)

Found on p. 19



- 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;



sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly now scorn - ful - ly crown; thy face now lan - guish, which once was how does bright as morn! this dy - ing sor - row, pit - y with - out for thy thy end? pas - sion when my re - mind me of thy last hour draws nigh.



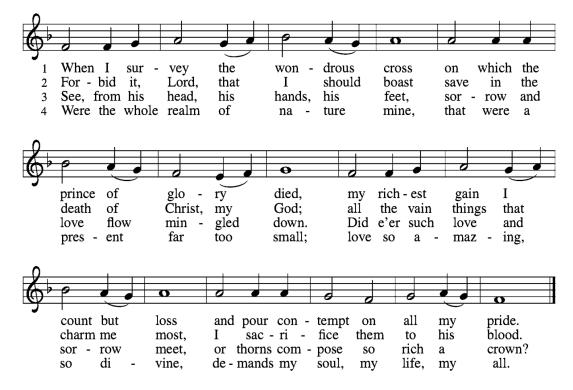
sa - cred head, what glo O ry, what bliss till now was thine! Thv grief and bit - ter pas sion were all for sin - ners' gain; make me thine for - ev Oh, and should I er, faint-ing be, These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move:



though de-spised and gor joy call thee mine. mine, mine was the trans-gres sion, dead - ly but thine the pain. Lord, let me nev - er, nev er out - live my love to thee. die be-liev for all who ing die safe - ly in thy love.

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

 $_{\pm}$ $_{\pm}$



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

DISMISSAL

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.

The ministers depart in silence.

Worshippers may remain for prayer and meditation on the mystery of redemption.

We appreciate the offerings of all our musicians this evening, especially our guest and member (*) instrumentalists:

Len DeFrank, flute Jared Sharpe*, clarinet Andy Corbett, horn in F Alan Hodesblatt, violin Carl Van Valkenburg, violin Carolyn Hendrix, cello Anne Sullivan*, harp

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.



JOIN US IN WORSHIP ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20 AS WE CELEBRATE

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

WITH A 10AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

beginning with an extended prelude at 9:45 AM

All are cordially invited to attend an Easter breakfast following worship in the fellowship hall.

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JESUS MAFA. The Crucifixion: Jesus dies on the cross, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48390 [retrieved April 9, 2025]. Original source: https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr (contact page: https://www.lib

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