

**Good Friday Service – April 3, 2026  
Tenebrae - Service of Light and Darkness**

**Gathering Words**

Along this way, **we have walked with Christ.**

Along this way, **we have shared Christ's table.**

Along this way, **Christ has washed our feet.**

Along this way, **we approach the cross.**

Along this way, **the path awaits.**

Behold Christ on the cross,

**the sign that reveals God's love for a broken world in need of healing.**

**Prayer of Remembrance**

Let us remember Jesus, who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us;  
who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled;  
who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.**

Let us remember Jesus, who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him  
and for the wholeness of those who received him;  
who loved all people and prayed for them, even if they denied and rejected him;  
who knew the cost of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and hatred,  
both to people and to God.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.**

Let us remember Jesus, who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross.  
God has exalted Jesus who has redeemed us and given us new freedom.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us  
and continues to do for us.**

**Prayer of the Day**

*God of the daytime and the night-time, God of joy and sorrow, we worship you.*

**Through you alone are we able to know that even in the darkest hours hope is present  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.**

***The Passion According to John***

**The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus - John 18:1-11**

After he said these things, Jesus went out with his disciples and crossed over to the  
other side of the Kidron Valley. He and his disciples entered a garden there.

Judas, his betrayer, also knew the place because Jesus often gathered there with his disciples. Judas brought a company of soldiers and some guards from the chief priests and Pharisees. They came there carrying lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus knew everything that was to happen to him, so he went out and asked, "Who are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I Am." (Judas, his betrayer, was standing with them.) When he said, "I Am," they shrank back and fell to the ground. He asked them again, "Who are you looking for?" They said, "Jesus the Nazarene." Jesus answered, "I told you, 'I Am.' If you are looking for me, then let these people go." This was so that the word he had spoken might be fulfilled: "I didn't lose anyone of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) Jesus told Peter, "Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?"

**Hymn #347 *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (v.1-2)**

- 1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all 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 from Jesus Christ to pray.**
- 2. Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not the suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**

**Jesus Before the High Priest, Peter Denies Jesus - John 18:12-27**

Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the guards from the Jewish leaders took Jesus into custody. They bound him and led him first to Annas.

He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. (Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it was better for one person to die for the people.)

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Because this other disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. However, Peter stood outside near the gate. Then the other disciple (the one known to the high priest) came out and spoke to the woman stationed at the gate, and she brought Peter in. The servant woman stationed at the gate asked Peter, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?"

"I'm not," he replied. The servants and the guards had made a fire because it was cold. They were standing around it, warming themselves. Peter joined them there, standing by the fire and warming himself.

Meanwhile, the chief priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, "I've spoken openly to the world. I've always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews gather. I've said nothing in private. Why ask me? Ask those who heard what I told them. They know what I said."

After Jesus spoke, one of the guards standing there slapped Jesus in the face.

"Is that how you would answer the high priest?" he asked.

Jesus replied, "If I speak wrongly, testify about what was wrong. But if I speak correctly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him, bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing with the guards, warming himself.

They asked, "Aren't you one of his disciples?"

Peter denied it, saying, "I'm not."

A servant of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said to him, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" <sup>27</sup> Peter denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

#### **Hymn #349 Ah, Holy Jesus** (v.1,5) (*stand*)

- 1. Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.**
- 5. Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;  
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.**

#### **Jesus before Pilate** - John 18:28-40

The Jewish leaders led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace.

It was early in the morning. So that they could eat the Passover, the Jewish leaders wouldn't enter the palace; entering the palace would have made them ritually impure.

So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered, "If he had done nothing wrong, we wouldn't have handed him over to you."

Pilate responded, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your Law."

The Jewish leaders replied, "The Law doesn't allow us to kill anyone." (This was so that Jesus' word might be fulfilled when he indicated how he was going to die.)

Pilate went back into the palace.

He summoned Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?"

Pilate responded, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus replied, "My kingdom doesn't originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn't have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn't from here."

"So you are a king?" Pilate said.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice."

"What is truth?" Pilate asked.

After Pilate said this, he returned to the Jewish leaders and said, "I find no grounds for any charge against him. You have a custom that I release one prisoner for you at Passover. Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?"

They shouted, "Not this man! Give us Barabbas!" (Barabbas was an outlaw.)

**Hymn**      *The Old Rugged Cross* (v.1-2,4)

1.    **On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.**

*Chorus:*

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, 'til my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.**

2.    **O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.**

*Chorus*

4.    **To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share.**

*Chorus*

**Jesus Sentenced to Be Crucified** - John 19:1-7

Then Pilate had Jesus taken and whipped. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. Over and over they went up to him and said, "Greetings, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

Pilate came out of the palace again and said to the Jewish leaders, "Look! I'm bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no grounds for a charge against him."

When Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here's the man."

When the chief priests and their deputies saw him, they shouted out, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate told them, "You take him and crucify him. I don't find any grounds for a charge against him."

The Jewish leaders replied, “We have a Law, and according to this Law he ought to die because he made himself out to be God’s Son.”

**Hymn #338 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* (v.1-2)**

1. **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.**
2. **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.**

**Pilate Hands Jesus Over - John 19:8-16a**

When Pilate heard this word, he was even more afraid. He went back into the residence and spoke to Jesus, “Where are you from?” Jesus didn’t answer. So Pilate said, “You won’t speak to me? Don’t you know that I have authority to release you and also to crucify you?” Jesus replied, “You would have no authority over me if it had not been given to you from above. That’s why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.” From that moment on, Pilate wanted to release Jesus. However, the Jewish leaders cried out, saying, “If you release this man, you aren’t a friend of the emperor! Anyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes the emperor!”

When Pilate heard these words, he led Jesus out and seated him on the judge’s bench at the place called Stone Pavement (in Aramaic, *Gabbatha*). It was about noon on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jewish leaders, “Here’s your king.”

The Jewish leaders cried out, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

Pilate responded, “What? Do you want me to crucify your king?”

“We have no king except the emperor,” the chief priests answered.

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

**Hymn #803 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (v.1,3,4) (stand)**

1. **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.**
3. **See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
4. **Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*(be seated)*

### **The Crucifixion** - John 19:16b-22

The soldiers took Jesus prisoner. Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called *Golgotha*. That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a public notice written and posted on the cross. It read "Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. Therefore, the Jewish chief priests complained to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The king of the Jews' but 'This man said, "I am the king of the Jews.'""

Pilate answered, "What I've written, I've written."

### **The Soldiers** - John 19:23-25

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and his sandals, and divided them into four shares, one for each soldier.

His shirt was seamless, woven as one piece from the top to the bottom. They said to each other, "Let's not tear it. Let's cast lots to see who will get it." This was to fulfill the scripture, *They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing*. That's what the soldiers did.

### **Hymn #351 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded** (v.1,3)

1. **O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.**
3. **What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?  
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.**

### **"It is Finished."** - John 19:25-30

Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home. After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.

When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is finished."  
Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

**Hymn #616 *Jesus, Remember Me* (3x)**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (repeat 3x)**

**Jesus' Side is Pierced - John 19:31-42**

It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down. Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus. When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they didn't break his legs.

However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. The one who saw this has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he speaks the truth, and he has testified so that you also can believe. These things happened to fulfill the scripture, *They won't break any of his bones.* And another scripture says, *They will look at him whom they have pierced.*

After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus.

Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away.

Nicodemus, the one who at first had come to Jesus at night, was there too.

He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, nearly seventy-five pounds in all.

Following Jewish burial customs, they took Jesus' body and wrapped it, with the spices, in linen cloths. There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it.

**Hymn #353 *Were You There***

1. **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**
2. **Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**4. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

*Silence for reflection.*

*The congregation departs in silence.*