

WORSHIP PLAN FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Gathering in the Upper Room

We gather in the chancel. The springtime twilight is lightened by seven candles – seven, the biblical number for wholeness and completion. The baptismal font and foot-washing bowl are placed in the centre.

Setting the Scene for Betrayal and Arrest

Two Voices

Sacred silence: filled

Holy moment: overflowing.

Haunting seconds: brimming.

Tonight too much happens in the holy story for us to comprehend.

Too much fear and deceit, too many questions and confusion, too few words, and too little space.

The disciples have assembled. Heaven is tottering.

The basin is ready. The towel is tied. The Holy one of God bends his knee.

The shadows encroach. The light crumbles. Bread breaks and wine spills.

Sacred silence: filled.

Holy moment: overflowing.

Haunting seconds: brimming.

A questioning promise, a broken covenant, a wondering band of followers, and a worried Messiah.

Won't you wait here a while?

Won't you wait with me a while?

Long enough, long enough to grasp—even glimpse and hold even a fraction of a broken heaven.

Silence

Opening Prayer

**Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows
of Jesus' suffering and death.**

**We come with his friends the men and women
who have followed him in every time and place,**

**To live once again this story of service and betrayal,
of weakness and courage.**

We come to witness your painful love in action.

**We know you are with us, as we pray,
in the name of the One who is betrayed.**

Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 **Go to dark Gethsemane,
you that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see;
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his grief away:
learn from him to watch and pray.**

- 2 **See him at the judgement hall,
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
 see him meekly bearing all;
 love to all his soul sustained.
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:
learn from Christ to bear the cross.**
- 3 **Calvary's mournful mountain view;
there the Lord of glory see,
 made a sacrifice for you,
 dying on the accursed tree.
'It is finished,' hear his cry:
trust in Christ and learn to die.**

Water of Forgiveness, Baptism and for Washing Disciple's Feet

Prayer (two voices?)

Servant God, kneeling, bending, serving us,
take our dusty journeys

And wrap your hands around them:

every path we have trodden in life,

Every word that has taken us to hurtful scenes,

every thought that has moved us toward the shadows

every act that has led us into harmful places.

Wash away the pain as we confess and you forgive.

(during a moment of silence, water is poured into a foot-washing bowl and the font)

Take wounds from our travelling

And hold them in your healing hands.

Every journey of remembrance that

holds too many memories,

every memory that weighs us down with anger we cannot surrender,

every place we have visited that holds too much pain.

Wash away the lingering memories

as we let go and you heal

(during a moment of silence, water is poured)

Take away the discomfort we feel because of our failure to honour our own values

And cleanse us as you kneel at our feet.

Every lesson about love we have not learned,

Every heavenly value we have not grasped,

every truth of your realm we have ignored.

Wash away hesitation as we accept your love. Amen.

*(during silence, water is again poured,
and we reflect on our sins and shortcomings)*

Jesus says: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;

for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(Matthew 11: 28-30)

Act of Footwashing

Sharing the Word

Scripture Readings:

Responsive Psalm 31: 1-5 (VU#758 part one)

Sung response: **I trust in you, you are my God**

In you, O God, I have taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

Deliver me in your righteousness;

incline your ear; come quickly to my rescue.

I trust in you, you are my God

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to keep me safe.

You are indeed my rock and fortress;

lead me and guide me for your own name's sake.

Release me from the net that they hid for me,

for you are my protector.

Into your hands I commend my spirit,

for you have redeemed me, O God of truth

I trust in you, you are my God

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26: 17-30

Response:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Special Music: *What Wondrous Love is This?* Solo: Chris MacRae

Remembering that Final Evening Together

Two Voices

Footsteps could be heard running through the streets toward Caiaphas's lodging, but few heard them as bitter herbs, radish and celery were tasted.

Soldiers sandals sounded as they marched the alleyways out of the city, as they always did in tens, but this time with a purpose that was different. Marching to a Garden as the evening light turned to night.

No one's attention was drawn to them as roast lamb was cut with its slices of garlic for the Passover feast.

At one table a betrayer was accused. A Holy Man and his followers faced each other denying and blaming the other. Only two of them knew who had done it and one of them was soon to leave under the noise of the shouting.

He would walk the cobbled street under the moonlight, passing menorahs in every window, smelling wafts of roast lamb, turmeric, and coriander as he moved toward a secret meeting place among the trees and shadows.

Around the table in an upper room voices fell silent and the Rabbi took unleavened bread and, with a face drawn, and tired, ripped it. “This is my body,” he said. The followers looked at each other, foreheads furrowed. “Take and eat all of you.” Twigs snapped under the trees. The high priest’s door shut. Footsteps went scurrying.

And as they each ate a piece, chewing over silent questions, the Teacher took the cup of wine that is part of every Passover meal and, staring into it, said, “this is my blood, the sign of the new covenant. Drink it all of you.” And as whispers were heard around the city and religious leaders moved by stealth to the meeting place, the bewildered cluster in the upper room did drink – all of them.

If they had listened maybe they would have heard what was happening in heaven and in the streets. But their ears were filled with the back and forth of questions and silence. The world was turning against them and only One in the room could hear it.

The Table is Laid

Two Voices – Bread and wine is carried to the table

Here is that bread, broken.

Jesus said, “The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

He said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

And no one who comes to me will I ever drive away.

Here is that cup filled.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; **whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.**”

(John 6: 33-37)

Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father and Mother,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

All who desire to walk in Jesus’ Way are invited to this table. Moving with physical distance between others, pause at the baptismal font or the bowl and dip your hands in the water as a symbol of your baptism and Jesus washing his disciples’ feet, your feet. Dry your hand on the towel. Take a piece of bread, pull your mask down and eat; take a cup of white juice or red wine, pull down your mask and drink. Make your communion. Do all slowly and thoughtfully. When ready, return to your seat.

Prayer after Communion

God, Compassionate One, you enable our loving service in the world. We thank you for Jesus, who, on the night he was betrayed, gave himself to his friends in humble service and in bread and wine. May we be a continuation of Christ's service, in the face of life's sin, pain, and suffering. Amen

Living in the Shadows

Six petitions are read and a candle extinguished after each one.

God in anguish we behold you and walk with you, through, on, into the shadows.

(a candle is extinguished.)

God, hold us as we, too, walk through, on, into the world's shadows.

(a candle is extinguished.)

God of passion, may we have the courage to stay awake, as you pray all alone into the night.

(a candle is extinguished.)

God of compassionate love, the world conspires against you and turns its back on your gift of redemption.

(a candle is extinguished.)

God, kneel with us as we, too, pray into our nights, as forces gather and betray loves' future.

(a candle is extinguished.)

God, of our day and night, be with us as we share your cup of pain and loss, trusting you when shadows seem so deep.

(a candle is extinguished.)

God, you live in us. May we hold your cup and walk in Jesus' footsteps, through death to life.

(a candle is extinguished.)

Amen and Amen.

Hymn: ***Bitter was the Night*** (VU#132)

Bitter was the night,
thought the cock would crow for-ever.

Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

Saw you passing by,
told them all I didn't know you.

Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

Told them all a lie,
and I told it three times over.

Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

Bitter was the night,
thought there'd never be a morning.

Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

Bitter was the night,
 thought the cock would crow forever.
 Bitter was the night
 before the break of day.

From the Upper Room into the World

Two Voices

Love has moved out. The room is silent. The Table is abandoned: broken bread still
 sitter there; wine half finished, herbs and lamb scattered across the Table.

**In the distance you can hear footsteps moving through the olive grove. Whose
 they are, we do not know.**

The room hangs, suspended in time, cushions scattered, crumbs across the floor, a
 basin and a towel discarded near the Table.

**There is a rustle of leaves from among the trees, a brushing of garments caught
 on branches, the sound of knees breaking twigs as they kneel in prayer.**

The room is cold, empty. The air is deep with the smell of betrayal and panic, of
 accusations and unfinished stories.

**And we are aware that Someone has departed: his intricate blend of human and
 divine, prophetic presence, Galilean hope, Teach with whom we have journeyed
 and broken bread.**

Footsteps echo on their way past the house out of the city. The room is dull. Shadow
 stretch across unfinished bread and half drunk wine: Unfinished conversations hang in
 the air.

**A breeze from the empty window fills the space, and crumbs roll and tablecloth
 flutters as the wind searches and cools the wounds of that upper room.**

A ghostly presence fills the emptiness, tasting of unrequited love.

Outside, there is a gathering with noise, shouts and then silence.

From the room all that one can hear is a distant subtle rattle of weapons on
 breastplates. The circle is tightening. Suddenly, all at once, the wind changes
 direction; there are muffled voices, and a kiss is places on the Galilean's cheek.

It is the moment of betrayal.

Psalm 22

(The church is stripped of paraments and ornamentations)

*Stay as long as you wish and leave in silence
 when you are ready.*

Worship Plan for Friday, April 15, 2022 Good Friday

GATHERING (ELW p. 262)

HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (isometric)* (ELW 351)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 262). Let us pray. Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12. A reading from Isaiah.

The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin. The servant pours himself out to death and is numbered with the transgressors, images that the early church saw as important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.

¹³See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him

—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so he shall startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,

and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities

and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

- ⁴**Our ancestors put their | trust in you,
they trusted, and you | rescued them. R**
- ⁵They cried out to you and | were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.
- ⁶**But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,
scorned by all and despised | by the people.**
- ⁷All who see me laugh | me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.
- ⁸**“Trust in the LORD; let the | LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in him.” R**
- ⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from the womb,
and kept me safe on my | mother’s breast.
- ¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my | mother’s womb.**
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,
and there is no | one to help.
- ¹²**Many young bulls en- | circle me;
strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me. R**
- ¹³They open wide their | jaws at me,
like a slashing and | roaring lion.
- ¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.**
- ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof | of
my mouth;
and you have laid me in the | dust of death.
- ¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers | circles round me;
they pierce my hands | and my feet. R**
- ¹⁷I can count | all my bones
while they stare at | me and gloat.
- ¹⁸**They divide my gar- | ments among them;
for my clothing, | they cast lots.**
- ¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not | far away;
O my help, hasten | to my aid.
- ²⁰**Deliver me | from the sword,
my life from the power | of the dog.**
- ²¹Save me from the | lion’s mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.
- ²²**I will declare your name | to my people;
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you. R**
- ²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.
- ²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD’s face hid- | den from them;**

but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live
forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations. R**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore
the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:16-25 A reading from Hebrews.

In the death of Jesus, forgiveness of sins is accomplished and access to God is established. Hence, when we gather together for worship and when we love others, we experience anew the benefits of Jesus' death.

[After the Holy Spirit says,] ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,"

¹⁷he also adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary
by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us
through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great
priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full
assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession
of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let
us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not
neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one
another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 263)

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,**

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: John 18:1--19:42. The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

On Good Friday, the story of Jesus' passion—from his arrest to his burial—is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.

... ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Silence for prayer and reflection follows the reading.

SERMON (ELW p. 263)

HYMN OF THE DAY *Ah, Holy Jesus* (ELW 349)

BIDDING PRAYER (ELW p. 263) - Bidding Prayer

The assembly kneels or sits. The assisting minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). Silence for prayer follows each bid. The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence.

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, 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 church leaders, for Stewart & Russell our pastor(s), and 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 sisters and brothers 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 that the people you called and elected as your own
 may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.
 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. *All pray the Lord's Prayer.*

**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.**

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS (ELW p. 264)

The following dialogue is sung as the procession begins,

Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of | the whole world.

Oh, come, let us | worship him.

The dialogue is sung a second time at the midpoint of the procession.

Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of | the whole world.

Oh, come, let us | worship him.

The dialogue is sung a third time at the end of the procession.

Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of | the whole world.

Oh, come, let us | worship him.

SOLEMN REPORACHES

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you?

Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom,
and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert,
feeding you with manna on the way;
I saved you from the time of trial and 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, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire,
but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;
I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit;
I made you branches of the vine and never left your side,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I poured out saving water from the rock,
but you gave me vinegar to drink;
I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;
I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed;
I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land,
but you opened my side with a spear;
I washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I lifted you up to the heights,

but you lifted me high on a cross;

I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life,

but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I grafted you into my people Israel,

but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,

and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters,

but I was hungry and you gave me no food,

thirsty and you gave me no drink,

a stranger and you did not welcome me,

naked and you did not clothe me,

sick and in prison and you did not visit me,

and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

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

After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.

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

By your holy cross you have re- † deemed the world.

All depart in silence. If they have not done so earlier, worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.