

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

7       How beautiful on the mountains  
          are the feet of those who bring good news,  
          who proclaim peace, who bring good news of happiness,  
          who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"  
8       Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.  
          When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.  
9       Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,  
          for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
10      The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations,  
          and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.  
13      Behold, my servant will act wisely;  
          he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.  
14      Just as there were many who were appalled at him –  
          his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man  
          and his form marred beyond human likeness –  
15      so will he sprinkle many nations,  
          and kings will shut their mouths because of him.  
          For what they were not told, they will see,  
          and what they have not heard, they will understand.  
~Isaiah 52:7-10, 13-15

**PASTOR:**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**PEOPLE:**

His mercy endures forever.

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND SUPPLICATION**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your Holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PASTOR:**

And this is the judgment,  
that the light has come into this world,  
and we loved darkness rather than light.

**PEOPLE:**

God is light,  
in whom there is no darkness at all.

**PASTOR:**

For God sent his Son into the world,  
not to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through Him.

**PEOPLE:**

Every one that does evil hates the light,  
and does not come to the light.  
But all who do what is true come to the light.

**PASTOR:**

Come, let us worship in spirit and truth.

\* **HYMN**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**PASTOR:**

We speak a message of wisdom among the mature,  
but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age,  
who are coming to nothing.

**PEOPLE:**

No, we speak of God's secret wisdom,  
a wisdom that has been hidden  
and that God destined for our glory  
before time began.

**PASTOR:**

None of the rulers of this age understood it.

**PEOPLE:**

For if they had,  
they would not have crucified  
the Lord of glory.

**PASTOR:**

As it is written:  
"No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
no mind has conceived  
what God has prepared  
for those who love him."

**PEOPLE:**

But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

**PASTOR:**

This is how we know what love is:  
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

**PEOPLE:**

And this is his command:  
To believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,  
and to love one another as he commanded us.  
~1 Corinthians 2:6-10; 1 John 3:16,23

**\* SONG**

The Power of the Cross

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Unison:*

Most merciful God,  
We confess that we have sinned against you,  
in thought, word, and deed;  
By what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy upon us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

**WORDS OF COMFORT AND PARDON**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him:

Have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him:

If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sins.... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**PASTOR:**

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

**PEOPLE:**

And also with you!

\* SONG

O the Deep, Deep Love

**TENEBRAE SERVICE**

Most gracious God,  
look with mercy upon your family gathered here  
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed,  
given into sinful hands, and suffered death upon the cross.

Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals  
as we enter the way of His passion;

through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

Amen

**(All lights turned off)**

**FIRST READING:** Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Psalm 55:1-8; Matt. 26:30-46 (J)

*First candle is extinguished*

**SECOND READING:** Jesus betrayed into the hands of his enemies

Psalm 55:12-14, 20-21; Matt. 26:47-56 (T)

*Second candle is extinguished*

**THIRD READING:** Jesus brought before Caiaphas; Peter's denial

Psalm 56:1-4; Matt. 26:57-75 (J)

*Third candle is extinguished*

**FOURTH READING:** The death of Judas

Psalm 55:23; Matthew 27:1-5 (T)

*Fourth candle is extinguished*

**FIFTH READING:** Jesus brought before Pilate

Isaiah 53:1-3; Matt. 27:6-23 (J)

*Fifth candle is extinguished*

**SIXTH READING:** Jesus mocked, and led off to be crucified

Isaiah 53:4-6; Matt. 27:24-31 (T)

*Sixth candle is extinguished*

**SEVENTH READING:** Jesus crucified

Isaiah 53:7-8a; Matt. 27:32-44 (J)

*Seventh candle is extinguished*

**EIGHTH READING:** The death of Jesus

Isaiah 53:8b-9; Matt. 27:45-50 (T)

*Christ candle is hidden*

**NINTH READING:** Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Isaiah 53:10-12; Matt. 27:51-54 (J)

*Christ candle is restored*

**HOMILY** "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This"

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

\* **HYMN** What Wondrous Love Is This?

\* **BLESSING**

Go in peace.  
May Jesus Christ, who for our sake  
became obedient unto death, even death on the cross,  
keep you and strengthen you this night  
and forever more.  
Amen.

\* **POSTLUDE**

\* Congregation standing

**FIRST READING, Part 1**

**Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane ~Psalm 55:1-8**

Give ear to my prayer, O God,  
and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!  
Attend to me, and answer me;  
I am restless in my complaint and I moan,  
because of the noise of the enemy,  
because of the oppression of the wicked.  
For they drop trouble upon me,  
and in anger they bear a grudge against me.

My heart is in anguish within me;  
the terrors of death have fallen upon me.  
Fear and trembling come upon me,  
and horror overwhelms me.  
And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!  
I would fly away and be at rest.  
Yes, I would wander far away;  
I would lodge in the wilderness;  
I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest."

## **FIRST READING, Part 2**

### **Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane ~Matt. 26:30-46**

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

***First candle (the one furthest to the right) is extinguished***

**SECOND READING, Part 1**

**Jesus betrayed into the hands of his enemies ~Psalm 55:12-14, 20-21**

If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it.

If a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him.

But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,  
with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship  
as we walked with the throng at the house of God.

My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant.

His speech is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart.

His words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.



## **SECOND READING, Part 2**

### **Jesus betrayed into the hands of his enemies ~Matt. 26:47-56**

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.”

Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.”

Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

*Second candle (the one furthest to the left) is extinguished*

**THIRD READING, Part 1**

**Jesus brought before Caiaphas; Peter's denial ~Psalm 56:1-4**

Be merciful to me, O God, for men hotly pursue me;  
all day long they press their attack.  
My slanderers pursue me all day long;  
many are attacking me in their pride.

But when I am afraid, I will trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid.  
What can mortal man do to me?

### **THIRD READING, Part 2**

#### **Jesus brought before Caiaphas; Peter's denial ~Matt. 26:57-75**

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered. Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

***Third candle (the one furthest to the right) is extinguished***

**FOURTH READING, Part 1**  
**The death of Judas ~Psalm 55:23**

But you, O God, will bring down the wicked into the pit of corruption;  
bloodthirsty and deceitful men will not live out half their days.

**FOURTH READING, Part 2**  
**The death of Judas ~Matthew 27:1-5**

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders.

“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

*Fourth candle (the one furthest to the left) is extinguished*

**FIFTH READING, Part 1**  
**Jesus brought before Pilate ~Isaiah 53:1-3**

Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.  
Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised,  
and we esteemed him not.

## **FIFTH READING, Part 2**

### **Jesus brought before Pilate ~Matt. 27:6-23**

The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.

Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor.

Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered.

“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!”

“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

***Fifth candle (the one furthest to the right) is extinguished***

**SIXTH READING, Part 1**

**Jesus mocked, and led off to be crucified ~Isaiah 53:4-6**

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,  
yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.



## **SIXTH READING, Part 2**

### **Jesus mocked, and led off to be crucified ~Matt. 27:24-31**

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him.

"Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again.

After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

*Sixth candle (the one furthest to the left) is extinguished*

**SEVENTH READING, Part 1**  
**Jesus crucified ~Isaiah 53:7-8a**

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

By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
And who can speak of his descendants?

**SEVENTH READING, Part 2**  
**Jesus crucified ~Matt. 27:32-44**

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.

They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.

When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.

Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!”

In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

*Seventh candle (center) is extinguished, leaving only the white candle lit*

**EIGHTH READING, Part 1**  
**The death of Jesus ~Isaiah 53:8b-9**

He was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was stricken.  
He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.  
It was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer.  
The LORD made his life a guilt offering.

**EIGHTH READING, Part 2**  
**The death of Jesus ~Matt. 27:45-50**

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” – which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink.

The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

*Christ candle is hidden*

**NINTH READING, Part 1**  
**Jesus Christ, the Son of God ~Isaiah 53:10-12**

It was the LORD's will to crush him  
and cause him to suffer.  
But though the LORD made his life a guilt offering,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

After the suffering of his soul,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied.  
By his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

**NINTH READING, Part 2**  
**Jesus Christ, the Son of God ~Matt. 27:51-54**

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed,

“Surely he was the Son of God!”

*Christ candle is restored*