

Good Friday
March 29, 2024 7 PM

Prelude

Greeting and Instructions

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,
and we loved darkness rather than light.
Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.
That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Prayer of Confession

Yes, dear God, it is true. You are perfect in love and we confess we are not. We promise to be faithful just as the disciples who walked with Jesus, but we, too, fall away; we forsake you; we flee from you; we betray you; we deny you; we watch from afar; we don't tell anyone that your reign is at hand; we are afraid. Change us, we pray, forgive us, and renew us in your perfect love. Amen.

Canticle of Christ's Obedience 167 UMH

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
Did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
**But emptied himself, Taking the form of a servant,
Being born in our likeness.**
And being found in human form
He humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
Even death on a cross.
**Therefore, God has highly exalted him
And bestowed on him the name which is above every name,**
That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,
**And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God.**

The Passion of Jesus Christ with Tenebrae

A Service of Tenebrae, or "Darkness," is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. Twelve candles, along with a central Christ candle, are lighted; then one is extinguished at the conclusion of each section of the Passion story.

Choir *Wayfarin' Stranger*

Reading 1

Jesus went forth with his disciples from the upper room and across the Kidron valley to a garden called Gethsemane; Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to Jesus, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the

cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But Peter said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all the disciples of Jesus said the same.

(Candle 1 Extinguished)

Reading 2

Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated. And Jesus said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. Jesus prayed, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." Jesus came and found the disciples sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again, Jesus went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more Jesus came and found the disciples sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. Jesus came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

(Candle 2 Extinguished)

Choir *Wayfarin' Stranger*

Reading 3

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Judas approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then the crowd laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take up the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All the disciples deserted Jesus and fled.

(Candle 3 Extinguished)

Song: *Wayfarin' Stranger*

Reading 4

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. Peter had followed them at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.' "

But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent and did not answer. Again, the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.' " Then the high priest tore his

clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned Jesus as deserving death.

(Candle 4 Extinguished)

Choir *Wayfarin' Stranger*

Reading 5

Some began to spit on Jesus, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took Jesus over and beat him. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But Peter denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And Peter went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again, Peter denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But Peter began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." Peter broke down and wept.

(Candle 5 Extinguished)

Solo *And Can It Be*

Reading 6

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, Judas departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason, that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

(Candle 6 Extinguished)

Reading 7

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused Jesus of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the religious authorities cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement. Now at the festival Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.

Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So, the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then Pilate answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For Pilate realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.

(Candle 7 Extinguished)

Cello Solo *Wayfarin' Stranger* Melody

Reading 8

While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So, when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." So, Pilate released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

(Candle 8 Extinguished)

Choir *Ah Holy Jesus*

Reading 9

Then the soldiers led Jesus into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed Jesus in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began mocking Jesus, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but Jesus did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

(Candle 9 Extinguished)

Choir *Ah Holy Jesus*

Reading 10

Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Judeans read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The Jewish chief priests then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." Those who passed by derided Jesus, shaking their heads, and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking Jesus among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

(Candle 10 Extinguished)

Choir *Agnes Dei*

Reading 11

One of the criminals who were hanged kept deriding Jesus and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

(Candle 11 Extinguished)

Choir *O the Lamb*

Reading 12

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

(Candle 12 Extinguished)

Choir *Hard Trials*

Reading 13

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said, "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so, they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

(Christ Candle is extinguished)

Extended Silence

Reading 14

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the religious authorities asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced." After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the religious authorities, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body.

Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid to rest. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

All Glory, Laud and Honor

All Depart in Silence to Walk to lobby for Act of Forgiveness