

April 2, 2026 + 7:00 P.M.

**Maundy Thursday**

*If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our Playground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.*

Liturgist: Heather Casiano

**PRELUDE** 'Tis Midnight, and On Olive's Brow

R.H. Miles

**WELCOME**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from *Psalms* 121)

Leader: We lift up our eyes to the mountains—from where will our help come?

**ALL: Our help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: The LORD will not let our feet be moved; the LORD who keeps us will not slumber.

**ALL: The LORD who keeps us will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The LORD is our keeper; the LORD is our shade at our right hands.

**ALL: The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.**

Leader: The LORD will keep us from all evil; the LORD will keep our lives.

**ALL: The LORD will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore!**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Leader: We began our Lenten journey together with the imposition of ashes. As we join in remembrance of Jesus' final days, let us once again speak the words we joined our voices in confessing that night.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Our transgressions are many, but they can be boiled down to these essential problems. We do not trust you enough. We do not love you enough. We do not love each other enough. We follow kingdoms that are not yours. We follow laws that are not yours. We participate in systems of death. We deny resources to the poor. We turn away immigrants. We fail to care for the sick and injured. We fail to visit the incarcerated, let alone abolish incarceration. Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Amen.**

**KYRIE:** No. #572 (unison)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** (responsive)

Leader: Friends, remember that Ash Wednesday's ashes are fertile soil from which new life grows. From that soil grew the grains for the bread of life. Tonight we remember once again that Jesus Christ, the bread of life, gave his body for us.

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

**GLORIA PATRI:** No. 579 (unison)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## **WORD AND SACRAMENT**

**READING:** *Matthew 26:6-29*

**Liturgist:**

<sup>6</sup>Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,<sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. <sup>8</sup>But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? <sup>9</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." <sup>10</sup>But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>11</sup>For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup>By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. <sup>13</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

<sup>14</sup>Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

**Pastor:**

<sup>17</sup> On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>18</sup> He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, <sup>21</sup> and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup> And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup> He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” <sup>25</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

**SONG BEFORE AND DURING COMMUNION (Taizé)**

*Eat this bread, drink this cup.*

*Come to him and never be hungry.*

*Eat this bread, drink this cup.*

*Trust in him and you will not thirst.*

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**      *In Remembrance of Me*

**READING:**                      *Matthew 26:30-56*

## **Liturgist:**

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

<sup>32</sup> “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.” <sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup> Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG (Taizé)**

*Stay with me; remain here with me.*

*Watch and pray.*

*Watch and pray.*

**Pastor:**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." <sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" <sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

**READING:** *Matthew 26:57-75*

**Liturgist:**

<sup>57</sup> Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup> But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. <sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' " <sup>62</sup> The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." <sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of Power  
and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death.” <sup>67</sup> Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

**Pastor:**

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” <sup>71</sup> When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” <sup>72</sup> Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup> Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

## **MOMENT OF SILENT LAMENT**

**READING:** *Matthew 27:1-2, 11-31*

**Liturgist:**

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. <sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. <sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he 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.”

**Pastor:**

<sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** “Were You There?” (102)

## REMEMBRANCE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS

(Selections of Scripture)

<sup>32</sup> Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[<sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do.”**]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> He replied, **“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”**

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, **“Woman, behold your son.”** <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, **“Son, behold your mother.”** And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.

<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), **“I thirst.”** <sup>29</sup> A 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. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the wine, he said, **“It is finished.”**

<sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, **“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”** Having said this, he breathed his last.

*Luke 23:34*      **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

*Luke 23:34*      **“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

*John 19:26-27*      **“Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.”**

*Matthew 27:46*      **“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”**

*John 19:28*      **“I thirst.”**

*John 19:30*      **“It is finished.”**

*Luke 23:46*      **“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”**

**CLOSING SONG** (Taizé)

*Jesus, remember me*

*When you come into your kingdom.*

*Jesus, remember me*

*When you come into your kingdom.*

*Keep the song going as you depart into the night. Contemplate Christ on the Cross  
to focus your mind and spirit for the remainder of Holy Week.*

## Were You There?

WERE YOU THERE Irregular

African-American spiritual  
Arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

African-American spiritual

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)  
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were you there?)  
 3. Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)  
 4. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? Oh!  
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)  
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were you there?)  
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)  
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were you there?)