

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

6:30 pm

Assemble for Worship in Silence

Prayer of the Day

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.

Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

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.

A Period of Silence

The Passion story will be interwoven with the Scripture itself from the Gospel of John, following a monologue written by Rev. Shannon Sullivan. Each monologue will be from the point of view of key participants in the passion narrative.

Pastor Jenna: Opening Words

We call this day Good Friday, but what is good about it? It is a day in which the weight of the suffering absorbs our own suffering, where we see how much pain is borne in one body, where everything, everything is subsumed in the darkness. We see brokenness, in the body on the cross, in the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, the mocking by the soldiers. We see the brokenness in ourselves.

Who would we be in this story? What brokenness is ours tonight? Where do we see ourselves? These are the questions we ask every year, and every year we may find ourselves in a different place. But every year, we come back to enter the story anew, to seek some kind of understanding amidst the brokenness, to plunge the depths of the darkness so we might better see the light.

The Passion According to John 18:1--19:42

Reader:

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵ They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Pastor Jenna: Monologue 1- Judas

I can still see it, burned into my mind's eye like I am still there--- still standing in that moment looking at him as he prayed in the garden. I couldn't have walked away, the lantern light and jangling weapons had already given us away. Right? That's how it was? Then he was walking toward us...and I knew...I knew...oh God. Have mercy.

I'm sorry. I'm not usually like this. I'm supposed to be the steady one, the one in charge of our common purse. I'm supposed to be the one set in my beliefs. *(forced laughter)* You know, I always thought I was the only one of them who really understood who the Messiah was. When I first met him, I was moved by his teachings. These teachings for me, as for you, touched somewhere deep inside me. Somewhere hurting. Living in the shadow of a violent and repressive government as my people have for so long, his words of freedom and wholeness and love opened up a new world for us. I am not by nature a passionate, outgoing person like Peter and James and John are, but I was able to offer what small gifts I had to this Messiah and his movement.

But I guess I began to think too much of my gifts. I began to be so controlling. No Mary, don't you touch him with your hair and perfume. No James and John, do not get him a donkey to ride into the city. No Messiah...*Messiah*...do not wash anyone's feet. I went to the High Priests. Maybe if I worked with them, I could force the Messiah's hand. Make him act like the great king I thought he should be. That's what I told myself, at least. So I sold him out. *(bitterly)* Sold him out for thirty pieces of silver. *(throw a bag of coins on the floor)*

Let me tell you, I wish I could go back to that moment. I wish I could go back, knock the lanterns out of the hands of the soldiers as we approached, helped him escape under the cover of darkness. But I can't. And now all I can see is his face as he turned toward me and saw me leading that band of soldiers...

(whispers) Christ have mercy.

Hymn: ELW #353 "Were You There" verse 1

**1. Where you there when they crucified my Lord? *Where you there?*
Where you there when they crucified my Lord? *Where you there?***

**Refrain: Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Where you there when they crucified my Lord? *Where you there?***

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Reader:

¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Pastor Jenna: Monologue 2: Peter

It was dark. The firelight flickered at the edge of the courtyard. But the light didn't matter anyway--- nothing could be bright after he was taken away and we were left in the garden, blood still shining on my sword. But despite the overwhelming fog that pushed me down, I somehow managed to move my feet, following Jesus as they took him away. I stood outside the door to his trial, straining to listen, see, trying to figure

out what to do, but I could not hear anything. I could not do anything. So I stood there. Empty. Cold.

The first time a woman spoke to me, I barely heard her because the fog surrounding me dampened everything. It was easier to say no--- I didn't want to talk to anyone. After she spoke to me, I moved away from the door, trying not to draw attention to myself. I unconsciously began to warm myself by the fire, but I couldn't feel its warmth, couldn't even smell the smoke. Then two others asked me the same question. "*Are you not one of the man's disciples?*"

I wasn't thinking. Not through any of it. Nothing. It was like a nightmare I was supposed to wake up from any minute. But when the cock crowed, I didn't wake up. I just realized that I had denied knowing the one person who loved me more than anyone in the entire world did--- more than anyone else could.

Hymn: ELW #353 "Were You There" verse 2

**2. Where you there when they nailed him to the tree? Where you there?
Where you there when they nailed him to the tree? Where you there?**

**Refrain: Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Where you there when they crucified my Lord? Where you there?**

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Reader:

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Pastor Jenna: Monologue 3: Pontious Pilate

I know you all look at me with contempt. Perhaps not as much as Judas or those other weasels who turned this scraggly homeless rabble-rouser in, but you still turn your noses up at me. I am, after all, the one who agreed to the mob's calls for crucifixion. I am, after all, the one who orders your so-called king to be whipped. But you are the same as me. You are like me in so many ways.

You were probably minding your own business when you first heard of this Jesus like I was. You were probably just trying to do your job when he showed up, calling himself a king. Ha! Here I was, an important Roman official trying to shine the light of our civilized Empire on these barbarians in Jerusalem, and I had to put up with claims of men like this illiterate peasant from backwater Galilee.

He spoke of truth. What is truth? I will tell you. Truth is might. Truth is wealth. Truth is power. He had none. So I saw no crime in his delusions of grandeur. It was others who insisted on his death. I obliged and washed my hands of the whole situation.

(there is a hesitation here)

The problem is that we were all supposed to forget about this Jesus. But even I can't shake the memory of the shock that went through my body when this peasant man spoke of truth...

Hymn: ELW #353 "Were You There" verse 3

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

**Refrain: Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Where you there when they crucified my Lord? Where you there?**

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Reader:

^{19:1}Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Hymn: ELW #353 "Were You There" verse 4

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

**Refrain: Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Where you there when they crucified my Lord? Where you there?**

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Reader:

⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Pastor Jenna: Monologue 4: *Mary, Cleopas' Wife's*

It happened so fast none of us could believe it. One night we were eating together, and then it seemed like one by one, the disciples faded away until by daylight only the four of us were left: myself, the Teacher's mother, Mary Magdalene, and one of the disciples. The others were afraid, confused; we were too, of course, but we couldn't be away from him. We couldn't be away from the one who since we had met him reached into our deepest darkest places and spoke words of life and light.

When the disciples rushed to tell us he had been arrested in the garden, we immediately set out to find him. We proclaimed ourselves his disciples when Peter couldn't at Caiaphas' house, though no one heard us. Outside the Roman headquarters, we inserted ourselves into the angry crowd and through throats tightened by grief tried to speak of how good our Teacher was, how he healed so many and fed even more, though the madness of the mob drowned out our stories. We were the lone voices in the crowd calling for no crucifixion, not Jesus, not Barrabas, not anyone. And we were the ones watched in horror as they ridiculed our beloved Teacher and began to tear him apart.

As I stared in disbelief, the horror of it all churning my stomach, I just kept asking: how can people treat one another this way? It doesn't matter that he was innocent of any crime he could be accused of. We are all made in the image of God, yet every day we beat and ridicule and kill one another. When our Beloved lifted the cross, we lost our words. We held each other and sobbed until our bodies shook and no more tears would come. But we stayed. We bore witness. And when our voices return, we will tell our story all the more.

Hymn: ELW #353 "*Were You There*" verse 5

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

Refrain: **Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Where you there when they crucified my Lord? Where you there?**

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Reader:

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²

Hymn: ELW #347 "Go to the Dark, Gethsemane" verse 1

- 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.**

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Reader:

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Pastor Jenna: Monologue 5: Mary, Jesus' Mother

A parent should never have to watch their child die. But I did. I, like too many parents who lose children in accidents or to illness or just to the horrible violence in this world, stood beside the one who I first held in my arms when he was a baby, the one who since I first felt him stir within me, the one who I've always seen as perfect and beautiful when no one else does--- I stood beside my baby and watched as his life drained away from him.

The sun was shining, but the world seemed to get darker and darker as I watched my son's light get snuffed out. When he cried out and I saw that last breath leave his body, it was like all my breath left my body as well. I collapsed onto the hard earth.

Why, oh God? Why?

Hymn: ELW #347 "Go to the Dark, Gethsemane" verse 2

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 suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

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Reader

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Pastor Jenna: Monologue 6: Nicodemus

I held his body in my arms, carried him, washed the blood off of him, the sweat, the fear. I, alongside Joseph of Arimathea, anointed him with myrrh, soothed his wounds with aloe though he could no longer feel the pain of the nails or spear. And I laid him down inside a new tomb, dark and cold, but clean and surrounded by a garden.

And all the while, I wondered. I had been drawn to this man since I first heard him speak, even though I heard grumblings from other Pharisees and religious leaders like myself. Soon after I first met him, I sneaked away to question him at night, try to understand the heart of his teaching. He spoke of new birth. I didn't understand then, and perhaps even less now as I have held his lifeless body in my own hands. But even if I didn't always understand it, I know now that this man spoke truth. He was truth. Is truth. And he has made a new way for us, even though the light illuminating that way seems thin and pale in the wake of his death.

Hymn: ELW #347 "Go to the Dark, Gethsemane" verses 3 & 4

3. **Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet, mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.**
4. **Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay; all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away? Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.**

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Offering

Offering Hymn ELW #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" 1st Verse

1. **We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

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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 our bishops, for our pastor, for our deacon(s), for 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.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,**

thy 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 thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: ELW #803 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

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.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
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. Where 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.

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Procession of the Cross

(As the crucifix is brought into the Sanctuary, the following is said three times).

L- Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C- Oh, come, let us worship him.

(After the crucifix is placed on the altar, the congregation may be seated. A period of silence is observed).

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

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

L- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C- By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

L- May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

C- Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among nations.

L- Let all the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you.

C- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

L- If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.

C- If we endure, we shall also reign with him.

L- Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, we pray to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your Holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C- Amen.

*Remain and pray as long as you wish
Please leave the sanctuary in silence, thank you*

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