

April 18th, 2025 Good Friday

**Acknowledgement of the Territories:
Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

Call to Worship:

One: Come together—let us tell the sad story. The bread of life was broken long, long ago.

All: Let us tell this story of loss and despair, for Jesus endured it all.

One: Come together—let us tell the story of the one who suffered and died.

All: Let us tell the story of the death of the Good Shepherd, who loved us until the very end.

One: We gather together to remember and grieve the events of this day. The bread of life has been broken.

All: Come, let us worship God, who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

Hymn: MV #64 Because you Came vs 1-4
Because you came and sat beside us,
Because you came and heard us speak,
And we ignored you
and we refused you,
We ask forgiveness, Lord Jesus Christ.

Because you laughed
and loved the child-like,
Because you lived from day to day,
And we love status and steady money,
We ask forgiveness, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Because our peace was your agenda,
Because you wept to see us war,
and we love power
and winning battles,
we ask forgiveness, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Because your Cross
compels an answer
Because your love absorbs our sin,
And we are wounded
because we wound you,
We ask forgiveness, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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Gathering Prayer:

Holy God, you sent Jesus to live as a human being. Today, we tell the story of his death. As we remember the way he faced evil with courage, despair with obedience, and loneliness with grief, we cannot help but identify with his suffering. Open our hearts and minds to experience this story with the same courage, obedience, and grief. Expand our imaginations to see this story as a testament to your faithfulness, which transcends the plans and manifestations of evil in this world. And as we meditate upon this tragic day, we also remember that nothing can separate us from your love, the love that was poured out long ago. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

And Assurance of Pardon:

One: Often ... we have contributed to unjust and violent systems.

All: Almighty God, you are the true judge of all that is righteous. We confess we have looked upon our neighbors with prejudice and suspicion. We have assumed wrongly, judged poorly, and sentenced innocent people to unfit consequences. We have judged people by their names, speech, dress, accent, country of origin, documentation status, age, gender, ethnicity, and orientation. We have reinforced stereotypes in poor attempts at humor or entertainment. We have whispered unjust thoughts to our friends while shouting for justice in public. We have grown apathetic toward the innocent who remain incarcerated or unjustly punished. Forgive us for our unkindness, our mockery, and our cruelty. Set us right again and uplift the voices of those who teach us to be just and kind. Let us sit at their feet and absorb their wisdom so that we might become liberators to a hurting world.

Silence is kept

Hymn: VU #149

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross vs 1,2,3

**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.**

**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.**

**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?**

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Prayer of Illumination:

Scripture: Luke 22: 47-48, 52-62 Betrayal, Arrest,
and Denial

Refrain: Jesus We Are Here MV #189

**Jesus we are here;
Jesus we are here;
Jesus we are here;
We are here for you.**

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Scripture: Luke 22: 66-23: 12 Before Council, Pilate
and Herod

Refrain: Jesus We Are Here MV #189

Scripture: Luke 23: 13-25 Sentenced to Death

Refrain: Jesus We Are Here MV #189

Scripture Luke 23: 26-43 Crucifixion

Refrain: Jesus We Are Here MV #189

Scripture Luke 23: 44-49 Death of Jesus

Refrain: Jesus We Are Here MV #189

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

Scripture Luke 23: 50-56 The burial

Refrain: Jesus We Are Here MV #189

Reflection: Bread for Uncertainty

Prayers of the People:

One: Bread of life,

All: Hear our prayer.

Hymn: MV #65 When we are Tested vs 1-3

**When we are tested
and wrestle alone,
Famished for bread
when the world offers stone,
Nourish us, God,
by your word and your way,
Food that sustains us
by night and by day.**

**When in the desert
We cry for relief,
Pleading for paths
Marked by certain belief,
Lift us to love
You beyond sign and test,
Trusting your presence,
Our only true rest.**

**When we are tempted
To barter our souls,
Trading the truth
For the power to control,
Teach us to worship
And praise only you,
Seeking your will
In the work that we do.**

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Affirmation of Faith:

We believe Jesus lived and died in a human body, fully experiencing the joys and sorrows of this life we know. We believe Jesus was accused, tried, and sentenced to torture and death by those in power. We believe that in his suffering, Jesus joined the suffering of all who are oppressed, wounded, and cast aside. We believe his death demonstrates his great love for us, giving us a chance to be made whole. We believe in the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross, changing the narrative of power, inviting everyone to receive the gift of grace and love. We believe the bread of life nourishes the world and satisfies our deepest hunger through his breaking and rising. We believe this story is not over, and love will have the final word. Amen.

Benediction: Congregation leaves in silence.