

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

March 24th, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 am Services

Sunday of the Passion

Introduction to the Day: This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Gathering

Prelude

Adagio by Henry G. Ley [1887 – 1962]

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Ann Williams

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Litany

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby You have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Processional Gospel

Mark 11:1-11 (*Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem*)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them,

“Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’”

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them,

“What are you doing, untying the colt?”

They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which You have redeemed us through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was acclaimed son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palms in His path.

[Members of the congregation should raise palm branches.] We ask that You bless those who bear these branches, and grant we may ever hail Him as our Lord and King and follow Him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of the Lord.

Processional Hymn

#344 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Greeting

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Prayer of the Day

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

Please stay seated for the Passion Reading.

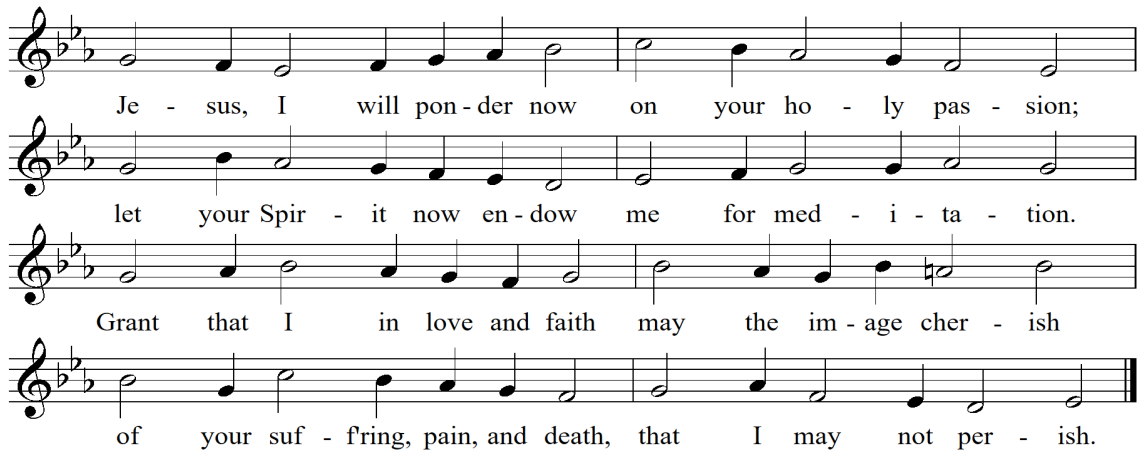
The Passion of our Lord Mark 14:1 through 15:47

The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.

Reader 1: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
of your suf - fring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt. Music: Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615. Tune: Jesu Kreuz, Leiden und Pein, 76 76 D

Reader 1: ¹It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²but they said,

Reader 2: “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

Anointing with Oil

Reader 1: ³while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger,

Reader 2: “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.”

Reader 1: And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said,

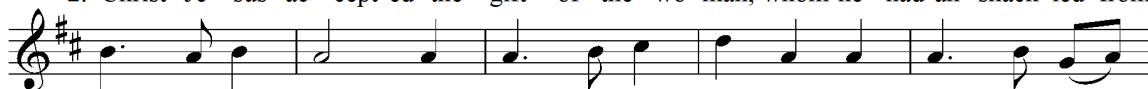
Jesus: “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

Hymn

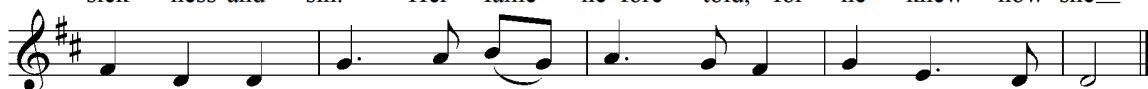
Break Open the Jar



1. Break o - pen the jar in the pre - sence of Je - sus, and set free its per - fume of
 2. Christ Je - sus ac - cept - ed the gift of the wo - man, whom he had un - shack - led from



joy and de - light! Though oth - ers may scorn you for wast - ing your
 sick - ness and sin. Her fame he fore - told, for he knew how she



trea - sure, let love give you cour - age to do what is right.
 loved him; break op - en your jar, and let liv - ing be - gin!

Text: Rae E. Whitney, 1994, Based on Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8. Music: A. Valeriu. Tune: Kremser 12 11 12 11.
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Judas Arranges to Betray Jesus

Reader 1: ¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The Last Supper

Reader 1: ¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

Congregation: “**Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?**”

Reader 1: ¹³So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

Jesus: “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

Reader 1: ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. ¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

Jesus: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

Reader 1: ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

Congregation: "**Surely, not I?**"

Reader 1: ²⁰He said to them,

Jesus: "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For 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."

Reader 1: ²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

Jesus: "Take; this is my body."

Reader 1: ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them,

Jesus: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Hymn

Before the Bitter Scene Began

1. Be - fore the bit - ter scene be - gan, He took the
2. "Do this," he said, "till time shall end, Re - mem - ber -

bread, and blest and broke. What love through all his
ing your dy - ing friend; Meet at my ta - ble

ac - tions ran! What won - drous words of love he spoke.
and re - cord The full o - be - dience of your Lord."

Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748, based on Matthew 26, alt. Tune: Erhalt uns, Herr, LM. Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543.

Please stand as you are able.

Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

...Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Meal

Offering	8:30	<i>Offertory on "Our Praise and Prayer and Anthems before Thee We Present" by Christina Harmon</i>
	11:00	<i>Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed</i> arr. Dan Forrest - Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Response

There in God's Garden

All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose pass - ion off - ers in
mer - cy heal - ing, strength, and par - don. Peo - ples and na - tions,
take it, take it free - ly!" A - men! My Mas - ter!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c.1590 - c.1641, tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982 Text Copyright © 1976 Hinshaw Music.
 Tune: Shades Mountain, 11 11 11 5, Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950. Music Copyright © 1987 Morning Star Music
 Publishers. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Offertory Prayer

We raise our palms to Jesus shouting praises to our humble King: "Hosanna to the son of David!" God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus said: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

Please be seated.

Call to Communion

#481 Come to the Table

Communion Hymn

#335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his love and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

The meal you have chosen for your feast is a humble meal, O Christ, even as the animal you rode into Jerusalem was a humble beast of burden. Accept our humble praise ... and our joyous shouts of hopeful celebration: "Hosanna to you, the son of David!" We hail you as our King!

Amen.

Please be seated for the Passion Reading.

Word

Garden Scene

Reader 1: ²⁶When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Reader 1: ²⁹Peter said to him,

Congregation: "**Even though all become deserters, I will not.**"

Reader 1: ³⁰Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Reader 1: ³¹But he said vehemently,

Congregation: "**Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.**"

Reader 1: And all of them said the same. ³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: "Sit here while I pray."

Reader 1: ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them,

Jesus: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

Reader 1: ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said,

Jesus: "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

Reader 1: ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Reader 1: ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them,

Jesus: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man

is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

The Betrayal


Reader 1: ⁴³Immediately, 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. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

Reader 1: ⁵⁰All of them deserted him and fled.

Hymn

Shadows Gather, Deep and Cold



1. Sha dows gath - er, deep and cold; Lamp-light flick- ers, fades and fails.
2. In the_ watch - es of the night, In the hour when dark - ness reigns,
Lord, you_ know what day-break holds Thorns and_ beat - ings, cross and nails.
In the_ grief_ that has no light, In the_ time of fear and pain,
You will be de - nied, be - trayed When the roos - ter wakes the_ sun.
Then we hold fast to our_ way, To the vic - tr'y you have_ won.
Yet you kneel a - lone and pray, "Not my_ will,_ but thine be done."
Je - sus, teach us how to pray, "Not my_ will,_ but thine be done."

Jesus Before the High Priests and Elders

Reader 1: ⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. ⁵⁶For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷One stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

Congregation: ⁵⁸**“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.’”**

Reader 1: ⁵⁹But even on this point their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

Reader 2: “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

Reader 1: ⁶¹But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

Reader 2: “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Reader 1: ⁶²Jesus said,

Jesus: “I am; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

Reader 1: ⁶³Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

Reader 2: “Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?”

Reader 1: All of them condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

Peter’s Denial

Reader 1: ⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

Cong. Pulpit side: **“You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”**

Reader 1: ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying,

Cong. Lectern side: **“I do not know or understand what you are talking about.”**

Reader 1: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

Cong. Pulpit side: **“This man is one of them.”**

Reader 1: ⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

Cong. Pulpit side: **“Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.”**

Reader 1: ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Cong. Lectern side: **“I do not know this man you are talking about.”**

Reader 1: ⁷²At 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.” And he broke down and wept.

Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus

1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed thee?
2. Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?

that we to judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed?
A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee.

By foes de - rid - ed, by thine own re -
'Twas I, Lord Je - sus, I it was de -

ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647, tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt. Music: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662. Tune: Herzliebster Jesu, 11 11 11 5.

Jesus Before Pilate

Reader 1: ^{15:1}As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him,

Reader 2: “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Reader 1: He answered him,

Jesus: “You say so.”

Reader 1: ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again,

Reader 2: “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”

Reader 1: ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. ⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them,

Reader 2: “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

Reader 1: ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again,

Reader 2: “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

Reader 1: ¹³They shouted back,

Congregation: “**Crucify him!**”

Reader 1: ¹⁴Pilate asked them,

Reader 2: “Why, what evil has he done?”

Reader 1: But they shouted all the more,

Congregation: “**Crucify him!**”

Reader 1: ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. ¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a scarlet cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him,

Congregation: “**Hail, King of the Jews!**”

Reader 1: ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹They 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. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which

means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified

him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Hymn

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

1. O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2. How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153, Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676. Music: Hans L. Hassler, 1564-1612. Tune: Herzlich tut mich Verlangen, 76 76 D

Reader 1: ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Congregation: **“Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!”**

Reader 1: ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

Congregation: **“He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.”**

Reader 1: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. ³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus: “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”

Reader 1: which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Congregation: “**Listen, he is calling for Elijah.**”

Reader 1: ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Congregation: “**Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.**”

Reader 1: ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Congregation: “**Truly this man was God's Son!**”

Reader 1: ⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. ⁴²When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Hymn

Were You There?

Were you there when they
 Were you there when they la
 Oh, _____ some- time
 trem- ble. _____ Were you ther

Text: African American Spiritual. Music: African American Spiritual. Tune: Were You There, 10 10 14 10.

Passion Response

The Passion Story of our Lord for you this day.

Thanks be to God.

Passion Sunday Benediction

May the blessings of God the Creator, Jesus Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our advocate be upon us and remain with us this week and always.

Amen.

Postlude

*Introitus on "Herzliebster Jesu" by
 Gordon Slater*

*Our service continues Maundy Thursday with a Communion service followed by
 a Healing Service and Good Friday Service both at 7:00.*