

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

April 2nd, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 am Services

Sunday of the Passion

Introduction to the Day: Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

Gathering

Prelude

Prelude on "The Company of Angels Are Praising Thee on High." by Christina Harmon

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Karen Natterstad

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

Matthew 21:1-11 [*Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem*]

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to

you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying,

“This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

We praise you with palms, O Lord. We laud you with loud shouts. We lift up our hearts and sing, “Hosanna!” You are our King forever and ever. You are the King who dies for our sake. And you are the King who will live. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

The Passion of our Lord

Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

In fulfillment of scriptures and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

Passion Reading:

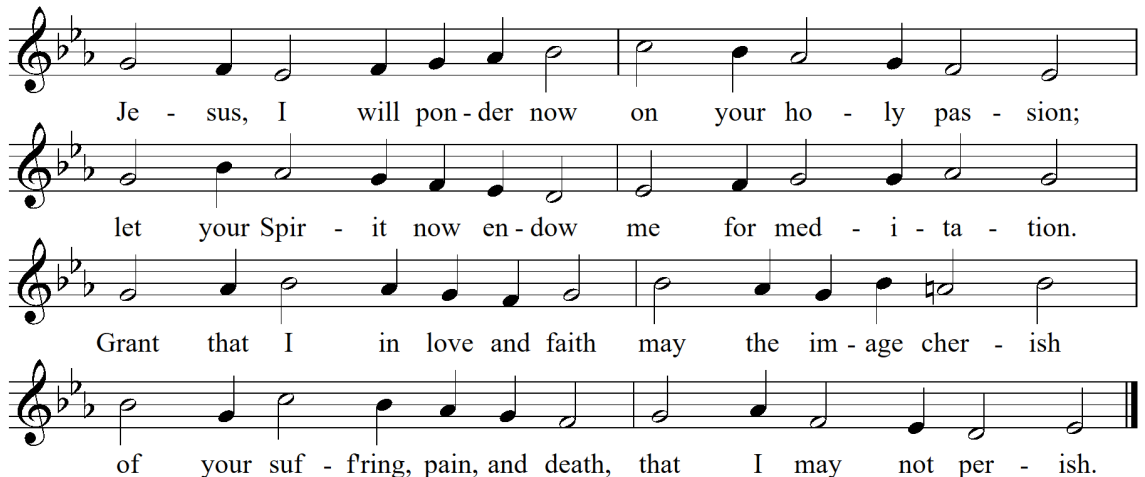
8:30 Readers: Craig Siwy, Laura Lange and Laura Crave

11:00 Readers: Tressa Bruggink, David Mohr and Dara Greene

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

Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



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

Reader 1: ¹When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples,

Jesus: ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Reader 1: ³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said,

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

Judas Arranges to Betray Jesus

Reader 1: ¹⁴Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said,

Reader 2: “What will you give me if I betray him to you?”

Reader 1: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The Last Supper

Reader 1: ¹⁷On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

Reader 2: “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

Reader 1: ¹⁸He said,

Jesus: “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.’”

Reader 1: ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. ²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus: “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

Reader 1: ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

Congregation: **“Surely not I, Lord?”**

Reader 1: ²³He answered,

Jesus: “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The 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: ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Reader 2: “Surely not I, Rabbi?”

Reader 1: He replied,

Jesus: “You have said so.”

Reader 1: ²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

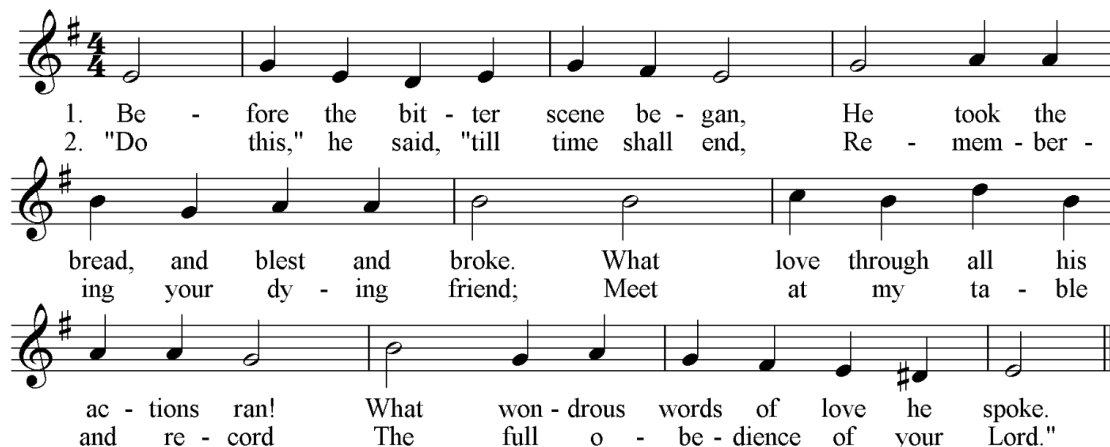
Jesus: “Take, eat; this is my body.”

Reader 1: ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I 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.”

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

11:00

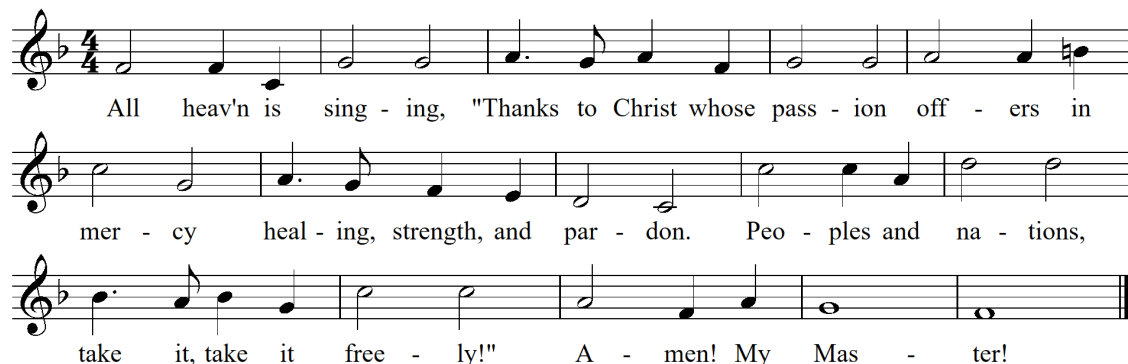
Lenten Carol by Stephen Walters - Senior Choir

Offertory on "Our Praise and Prayer and Anthems before Thee We Present" by Christina Harmon

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.

(8:30 Service)

First Communion

We celebrate with Cassie Locher her First Communion today.

Today this community of faith rejoices because Sunday is the day Christ arose from the dead. Once again Jesus calls us to join him for a meal. We celebrate with those who today, join in sharing of the Lord's Meal—Holy Communion.

We welcome you to the Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We thank God for your life. We pray that you will find joy and strength in this meal. Come among us, O God, as we gather to worship you.

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 Anthem 8:30

O Lord, We Praise You [ELW 499] – Senior Choir

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: ³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

Reader 1: ³³Peter said to him,

Congregation: **“Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.”**

Reader 1: ³⁴Jesus said to him,

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

Reader 1: ³⁵Peter said to him,

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

Reader 1: ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”

Reader 1: ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

The Betrayal

Reader 1: ⁴⁷While 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. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.”

⁴⁹At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Reader 2: “Greetings, Rabbi!”

Reader 1: and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “Friend, do what you are here to do.”

Reader 1: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹Suddenly, 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. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than

twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

Reader 1: ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

Reader 1: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Hymn

Shadows Gather, Deep and Cold

Sha - dows gath - er, deep and cold; Lamp-light flick - ers, fades and fails.
 Lord, you_ know what day-break holds Thorns and_ beat - ings, cross and nails.
 You will be de - nied, be - trayed When the roos - ter wakes the_ sun.
 Yet you kneel a - lone and pray, "Not my_ will,_ but thine be done."

Text: Sylvia Dunstan. Tune: Aberystwyth, 77 77 D Music: Joseph Parry, 1841-1903. Text Copyright © 1995 GIA Publ., Inc., Chicago. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703603

Jesus Before the High Priests and Elders

Reader 1: ⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going outside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said,

Congregation: **"This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"**

Reader 1: ⁶²The high priest stood up and said,

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

Reader 1: ⁶³But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

Reader 2: “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

Reader 1: ⁶⁴Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “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.”

Reader 1: ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

Reader 2: “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your verdict?”

Reader 1: They answered,

Congregation: “**He deserves death.**”

Reader 1: ⁶⁷Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying,

Congregation: “**Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?**”

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: ¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

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

Reader 1: Jesus said,

Jesus: “You say so.”

Reader 1: ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him,

Reader 2: “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”

Reader 1: ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Reader 1: ¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.

¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Reader 2: “Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

Reader 1: ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹While 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.”

²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them,

Reader 2: “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

Reader 1: And they said,

Congregation: “**Barabbas.**”

Reader 1: ²²Pilate said to them,

Reader 2: “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

Reader 1: All of them said,

Congregation: “**Let him be crucified.**”

Reader 1: ²³Then he asked,

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

Reader 1: But they shouted all the more,

Congregation: “**Let him be crucified!**”

Reader 1: ²⁴So 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,

Reader 2: “I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.”

Reader 1: ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered,

Congregation: “His blood be on us and on our children!”

Reader 1: ²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Reader 1: ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Hymn

O Sacred Head Now Wounded



O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame__weighed down,
 now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.

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

Reader 1: ³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying,

Congregation: **“You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”**

Reader 1: ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Congregation: ⁴²**“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”**

Reader 1: ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. ⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

Reader 1: that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Congregation: **“This man is calling for Elijah.”**

Reader 1: ⁴⁸At 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. ⁴⁹But the others said,

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

Reader 1: ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

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

Reader 1: ⁵⁵Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. ⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Hymn

Were You There?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?_____

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?_____

Oh,_____ some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

trem-ble._____ Were you there when they laid him in the tomb._____

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

Passion Response

The Passion Story of our Lord for you.

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 on Maundy Thursday with a Communion service at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, each followed by a Healing Service.