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**Good Shepherd  
United Methodist  
Church**

**Peace  
Lutheran  
Church**

**St. Paul's  
Episcopal  
Church**

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*Why have you forsaken me?* by Lauren Wright Pittman

**GOOD FRIDAY**

*March 29, 2024*

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## ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY

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Good Friday, the day on which the church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, is a day of special acts of discipline and self-denial. It may seem as though Good Friday is a grim day, but we call it "Good" for a reason. As horrible as the cross was and is, it is the moment of God's absolute solidarity with humankind and the redemption of all of creation from all that separates us from eternal union with the Divine.

The church is intentionally bare this day, as on the night before—Maundy Thursday—all was stripped bare, symbolizing the stripping of Jesus' own body.

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## GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

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Since 1922, The Episcopal Church has donated all of its offerings on Good Friday to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which serves the people of Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East. These funds, which are managed by the Synod of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, are used for a variety of humanitarian purposes, including an eye clinic, hospitals, scholarship aid for young people, empowerment programs for women, rehabilitation programs, and similar efforts. **This year, all funds will go to support the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which is actively treating people of all faiths in the midst of war in Gaza.**

Learn more here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/good-friday-offering/>

*You may place your offering in the trays near the door upon your exit. Make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Indicate on the Memo Line: Good Friday Offering. You may also scan the QR code to the right.*



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## RESTROOMS

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Restrooms are located at the end of the hallway to the left of the church. Exit through the front or rear doors and walk 50 feet and turn left at the stairs.

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## THE SOLEMN WORSHIP OF GOOD FRIDAY

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*All stand as the clergy enter in silence.*

*When the clergy are in place before the altar, all kneel or bow as they are able for an extended period of silent prayer.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Along this way

**We have walked with Christ.**

Along this way

**We have shared his table.**

Along this way

**He has washed our feet.**

Along this way

**We approach the cross.**

Along this way

**We fear the path.**

### OPENING PRAYER

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of all, we bring to the foot of the cross the whole world you died to save. We bring all whose lives are torn apart by war, civil unrest, and pandemic. We bring those who suffer for their faith. We bring those who feel abandoned by their friends and by you. We bring those who are afraid and alone and are bewildered by the demands and challenges of life. We bring those who have been tortured and their perpetrators. We bring those who are on death row. We bring those who are burdened by their sins. We bring those who are struggling to live faithfully amidst trials and temptations. We bring it all to you. Let our contemplation of your death save us and your world.

**Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*Bless the Lord*

Taizé  
sung 3x

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

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## INTRODUCTION & OPENING PRAYER

On this day we recall the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we hear John's account, we focus on eleven moments during that day and, as darkness still seeks to conquer the light, pause to reflect on our own sin, and that of the world. At the end of each reading, there will be a meditation—spoken, sung, or silent. Then a candle will be extinguished to mark the prevailing darkness of this day.

### FIRST MOMENT: DRINKING THE CUP

#### ***John 18:1-12***

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. 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. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." 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. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

#### ***Meditation***

#### ***Prayer***

Lord, have mercy,  
**Christ, have mercy,**  
Lord, have mercy.

*The 1<sup>st</sup> candle is extinguished.*

### SECOND MOMENT: DENIAL

#### ***John 18:12-27***

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. Simon 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, but 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. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now 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. Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus 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. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

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Now 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." One 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?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

### ***Meditation***

#### ***Prayer***

Lord, have mercy,  
**Christ, have mercy,**  
Lord, have mercy.

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> candle is extinguished.*

## **THIRD MOMENT: TRIAL**

### ***John 18:28-41***

Then 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. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate 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." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate 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?" Jesus 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." Pilate 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." Pilate 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. But 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?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

### ***Meditation***

#### ***Prayer***

Lord, have mercy,  
**Christ, have mercy,**  
Lord, have mercy.

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> candle is extinguished.*

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## FOURTH MOMENT: 'ECCE HOMO'

### **John 19:1-7**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate 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.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When 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.' The 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.'

### **Meditation**

#### **Prayer**

Lord, have mercy,

**Christ, have mercy,**

Lord, have mercy.

*The 4<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished.*

## FIFTH MOMENT: GABBATHA

### **John 19:8-16a**

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate 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?' Jesus 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.' From 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.'

When 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. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They 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.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

### **Musical Meditation**

*What Wondrous Love is This*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul*

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss*

*To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul*

*To bear the dreadful curse for my soul*

#### **Prayer**

Lord, have mercy,

**Christ, have mercy,**

Lord, have mercy.

*The 5<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished.*

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## SIXTH MOMENT: GOLGOTHA

### *John 19:16b–22*

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many 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. Then 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."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.'

### **Meditation**

#### **Prayer**

Lord, have mercy,  
**Christ, have mercy,**  
Lord, have mercy.

*The 6<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished.*

## SEVENTH MOMENT: CASTING LOTS

### *John 19:23–25*

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. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

### **Musical Meditation**

### **Jesus Remember Me**

**Taizé**  
*sung 3x*

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the song 'Jesus Remember Me'. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' The first system shows the vocal line with a melodic line and the bass line with a harmonic accompaniment. The second system shows the same music with a different vocal line.

#### **Prayer**

Lord, have mercy,  
**Christ, have mercy,**  
Lord, have mercy.

*The 7<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished.*

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## EIGHTH MOMENT: 'HERE IS YOUR MOTHER'

### **John 19:25–27**

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

### **Meditation**

#### **Prayer**

Lord, have mercy,

**Christ, have mercy,**

Lord, have mercy.

*The 8<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished.*

## NINTH MOMENT: FINISHED

### **John 19:28–30**

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

### **Meditation**

#### **Prayer**

Lord, have mercy,

**Christ, have mercy,**

Lord, have mercy.

*The 9<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished.*

## TENTH MOMENT: PIERCED

### **John 19:31–37**

Since 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. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth, so that you also may continue to believe.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

### **Meditation**



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**Prayer**

Lord, have mercy,  
**Christ, have mercy,**  
Lord, have mercy.

*The 10<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished.*

**ELEVENTH MOMENT: THE BURIAL**

**John 19:38–42**

After 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. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now 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. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**Meditation**

**Prayer**

Lord, have mercy,  
**Christ, have mercy,**  
Lord, have mercy.

*The 11<sup>th</sup> candle is extinguished.*

**THE ENTRANCE AND VENERATION OF THE CROSS**

Behold, the wood of the Cross, on which was hung the world's salvation.

**Come, let us adore him.**

*All are welcome to come forward to touch, kiss, or kneel at the cross in prayer and adoration. There is no right or wrong way to venerate the cross. The point is to spend a moment in reflection and devotion in front of the symbol of our wholeness, redemption, and grace, contemplating the love Jesus Christ has for the world.*

**THE SOLEMN PRAYERS**

Dear People of God: in Jesus, God became incarnate as one of us, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who trust and rely upon the goodness of Jesus Christ might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

We pray for the holy catholic church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service

For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve

For Mariann, LaTrelle, Leila, and all the people of our diocese, conference, and synod,

That God will confirm Christ's Church in faith, increase it in love and preserve it in peace.

*Please add your intercessions, silently or aloud.*

Lord of the cross,  
**Hear our prayer.**

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We pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;  
For Joe, the President of the United States; Kamala, the Vice-President; Wes, the Governor of  
Maryland; Aruna, the Lieutenant Governor

For the Congress and the Supreme Court  
For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations  
For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

*Please add your intercessions, silently or aloud.*

Lord of the cross,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those for whom the terrifying has become the ordinary: for the victims of warfare;  
for children and mothers unable to live in homes that are their own; for fighters who have become  
immune to the cries of others; and for politicians who hear only praise.

*Please add your intercessions, silently or aloud.*

Lord of the cross,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, if we have become immune to those who suffer, who have no name, who  
count for little. We ask for forgiveness for those times when we failed to speak or act.

*Please name your shortcomings and failings, silently or aloud.*

Lord of the cross,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who remind us that even in the shadows of pain humanity may shine forth.  
We give thanks for those who care for the dead and the dying, for those who bring hope.

*Please add your thanksgivings, silently or aloud.*

Lord of the cross,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful  
and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of  
salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and  
things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their  
perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **INTERLUDE**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you 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 for  
ever. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

*God So Loved the World*

*After the departure of the clergy, you are invited to remain seated in prayer and meditation. Please depart in  
silence.*



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## **SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Stephen J. Maunder, *Seven Moments* © 2018, Wild Goose Publications.

Thom M. Shuman, *The Last 24 Hours: A Vigil for Good Friday* © 2015, Wild Goose Publications.

*Book of Common Prayer 1979*. Public Domain.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.