

Prelude

Greeting & Announcements

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
graciously behold this your family, for whom your son, Jesus Christ,
was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners,
and to suffer death upon a cross;
grant that we, who glory in his death for our salvation,
may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Jesus Prays Alone Luke 22:39-46

Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives, as he often did, and his disciples went with him. When they got there, he told them, "Pray that you won't be tested."

Jesus walked on a little way before he knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you will, please don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."

Then an angel from heaven came to help him. Jesus was in great pain and prayed so sincerely that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.

Jesus got up from praying and went over to his disciples. They were asleep and worn out from being so sad. He said to them, "Why are you asleep? Wake up and pray that you won't be tested."

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

UMH 290

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power; your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour. Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

SCRIPTURE Jesus Is Arrested Matthew 26:47-56

Jesus was still speaking, when Judas the betrayer came up. He was one of the twelve disciples, and a large mob armed with swords and clubs was with him. They had been sent by the chief priests and the nation's leaders. Judas told them ahead of time, "Arrest the man I greet with a kiss."

Judas walked right up to Jesus and said, "Hello, teacher." Then Judas kissed him.

Jesus replied, "My friend, why are you here?"

The men grabbed Jesus and arrested him. One of Jesus' followers pulled out a sword. He struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

But Jesus told him, "Put your sword away. Anyone who lives by fighting will die by fighting. Don't you know that I could ask my Father, and right away he would send me more than twelve armies of angels? But then, how could the words of the Scriptures come true, which say that this must happen?"

Jesus said to the mob, "Why do you come with swords and clubs to arrest me like a criminal? Day after day I sat and taught in the temple, and you didn't arrest me. But all this happened, so that what the prophets wrote would come true."

All of Jesus' disciples left him and ran away.



HYMN Ah, Holy Jesus UMH 289

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus hath undone thee! 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was betrayed thee; I crucified thee.

SCRIPTURE Sanhedrin Tries Jesus Mark 14:53-65

Jesus was led off to the high priest. Then the chief priests, the nation's leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses all met together. Peter had followed at a distance. And when he reached the courtyard of the high priest's house, he sat down with the guards to warm himself beside a fire.

The chief priests and the whole council tried to find someone to accuse Jesus of a crime, so they could put him to death. But they could not find anyone to accuse him. Many people did tell lies against Jesus, but they did not agree on what they said. Finally, some men stood up and lied about him. The said, "We heard him say he would tear down this temple that we built. He also claimed that in three days he would build another one without any help." But even then they did not agree on what they said.

The high priest stood up in the council and asked Jesus, "Why don't you say something in your own defense? Don't you hear the charges they are making against you?" But Jesus kept quiet and did not say a word. The high priest asked him another question, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the glorious God?"

"Yes, I am!" Jesus answered. "Soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God All-Powerful, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

At once the high priest ripped his robe apart and shouted, "Why do we need more witnesses? You heard him claim to be God! What is your decision?" They all agreed that he should be put to death.

Some of the people started spitting on Jesus. They blindfolded him, hit him with their fists, and said, "Tell us who hit you!" Then the guards took charge of Jesus and beat him.

HYMN Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed UMH 294

Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree?

Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

SCRIPTURE Pilate Tries Jesus John 18:28-38a

It was early in the morning when Jesus was taken from Caiaphas to the building where the Roman governor stayed. But the crowd waited outside. Any of them who had gone inside would have become unclean and would not be allowed to eat the Passover meal.

Pilate came out and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

They answered, "He is a criminal! That's why we brought him to you."

Pilate told them, "Take him and judge him by your own laws."

The crowd replied, "We are not allowed to put anyone to death." And so what Jesus said about his death would soon come true.

Pilate then went back inside. He called Jesus over and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Are you asking this on your own or did someone tell you about me?"

"You know I'm not a Jew!" Pilate said. "Your own people and the chief priests brought you to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom doesn't belong to this world. If it did, my followers would have fought to keep me from being handed over to our leaders. No, my kingdom doesn't belong to this world."

"So you are a king," Pilate replied.

"You are saying that I am a king," Jesus told him. "I was born into this world to tell about the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth knows my voice."

Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?"



HYMN Go to Dark Gethsemane UMH 290

See him at the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned; O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.

SCRIPTURE Pilate Sentences Jesus Mark 15:6-15

During Passover, Pilate always freed one prisoner chosen by the people. And at that time there was a prisoner named Barabbas. He and some others had been arrested for murder during a riot. The crowd now came and asked Pilate to set a prisoner free, just as he usually did.

Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?" Pilate knew that the chief priests had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous.

But the chief priests told the crowd to ask Pilate to free Barabbas.

Then Pilate asked the crowd, "What do you want me to do with this man you say is the king of the Jews?"

The yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate asked, "But what crime has he done?"

"Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder.

Pilate wanted to please the crowd. So he set Barabbas free. Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross.

HYMN Ah, Holy Jesus UMH 289

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered. For our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.

SCRIPTURE Jesus Wears a Crown of Thorns Matthew 27:27-31

The governor's soldiers led Jesus into the fortress and brought together the rest of the troops. They stripped off Jesus' clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. They made a crown out of thorn branches and placed it on his head, and they put a stick in his right hand. The soldiers knelt down and pretended to worship him. They made fun of him and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!" Then they spit on him. They took the stick from him and beat him on the head with it. When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the robe. They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross.

HYMN Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed UMH 294

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die? Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

SCRIPTURE Jesus Carries His Cross John 19:16b-17

Jesus was taken away, and he carried his cross to a place known as "The Skull." In Aramaic this place is called "Golgotha."

HYMN Ah, Holy Jesus UMH 289

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that we to judge thee have in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!



SCRIPTURE Simon Carries the Cross Matthew 27:32

On the way they met a man from Cyrene named Simon, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

HYMN Were You There UMH 288

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

SCRIPTURE Jesus Speaks to the Women Luke 23:27-31

A large crowd was following Jesus, and in the crowd a lot of women were crying and weeping for him. Jesus turned to the women and said: Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me! Cry for yourselves and for your children. Someday people will say, "Women who never had children are really fortunate!" At that time everyone will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" They will say to the hills, "Hide us!" If this can happen when the wood is green, what do you think will happen when it is dry?

HYMN In the Cross of Christ I Glory UMH 295

When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

Scripture Jesus Is Crucified Matthew 27:34-38

There they gave Jesus some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain. But when Jesus tasted what it was, he refused to drink it.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes. Then they sat down to guard him. Above his head they put a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left.

HYMN O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done UMH 287

Is crucified for me and you, to bring us rebels back to God.
Believe, believe the record true, ye all are bought with Jesus' blood.
Pardon for all flows from his side: My Lord, my Love, is crucified!

SCRIPTURE Criminals Speak to Jesus Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!"

But the other criminal told the first one off, "Don't you fear God? Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man? We got what was coming to us, but he didn't do anything wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into power!"

Jesus replied, "I promise that today you will be with me in paradise."

HYMN Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross UMH 301

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever, till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

SCRIPTURE Jesus Speaks to Mary and John John 19:25-27

Jesus' mother stood beside his cross with her sister and Mary the wife of Clopas. Mary Magdalene was standing there too. When Jesus saw his mother and his favorite disciple with her, he said to his mother, "This man is now your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is now your mother." From then on, that disciple took her into his own home.



HYMN Go to Dark Gethsemane UMH 290

Calvary'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 of Jesus Christ to die.

SCRIPTURE Jesus Dies on the Cross Mark 15:33-39

About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until around three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said, "He is calling for Elijah." One of them ran and grabbed a sponge. After he had soaked it in wine, he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus. He said, "Let's wait and see if Elijah will come and take him down!" Jesus shouted and then died.

At once the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom.

A Roman army officer was standing in front of Jesus. When the officer saw how Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

HYMN O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done UMH 287

O Love divine, what hast thou done! The immortal God hath died for me!

The Father's co-eternal Son bore all my sins upon the tree.

Th'immortal God for me hath died: My Lord, my Love, is crucified!

SCRIPTURE Jesus Is Lain in the Tomb John 19:38-42

Joseph from Arimathea was one of Jesus' disciples. He had kept it secret though, because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders. But now he asked Pilate to let him have Jesus' body. Pilate gave him permission, and Joseph took it down from the cross.

Nicodemus also came with about seventy-five pounds of spices made from myrrh and aloes. This was the same Nicodemus who had visited Jesus one night. The two men wrapped the body in a linen cloth, together with the spices, which was how the Jewish people buried their dead. In the place where Jesus had been nailed to a cross, there was a garden with a tomb that had never been used. The tomb was nearby, and since it was the time to prepare for the Sabbath, they were in a hurry to put Jesus' body there.

HYMN Were You There UMH 288

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

Three Minutes of Silence in Memory of Three Days in the Tomb