



# GOOD FRIDAY

## PASSION AND LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

MARCH 29, 2024

6:30 PM



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Sunday Services at 8 and 10 AM Wednesday at 6 PM  
Our Sunday 10 AM service is livestreamed

# THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

## ENTRANCE

VOLUNTARY

Chant Mystic

Noel Goemanne  
(1926-2010)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN H-171

Go to Dark Gethsemane

PETRA

**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.**

**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.**

### PART I: ARREST AND RELIGIOUS TRIAL – MATTHEW 26:57–27:10

*Lector 2*     *We begin in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus is spending the night in prayer, asking to be spared the trials before him. After he has prayed for the third time, he is speaking to Peter, James and John.*

*Lector 1*     While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?”

*Jesus*  
*Lector 1*     Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, **“This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ ”**

*Lector 1*     The high priest stood up and said,

*Lector 2*     “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

*Lector 1*     But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

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

*Lector 1*     Jesus 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.”

*Lector 1*     Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

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

*Lector 1*     They answered,

*People*        **“He deserves death.”**

*Lector 1*     Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

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

*Lector 1* Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,  
*Lector 2* “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”  
*Lector 1* But he denied it before all of them, saying,  
*People* **“I do not know what you are talking about.”**  
*Lector 1* When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,  
*Lector 2* “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”  
*Lector 1* Again he denied it with an oath,  
*People* **“I do not know the man.”**  
*Lector 1* After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,  
*Lector 2* “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”  
*Lector 1* Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,  
*People* **“I do not know the man!”**  
*Lector 1* At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:  
*Jesus* “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”  
*Lector 1* And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,  
*People* **“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”**  
*Lector 1* But the chief priests and the elders said,  
*Lector 2* “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”  
*Lector 1* Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,  
*Lector 2* “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.”  
*Lector 1* After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

## **PART II: CIVIL TRIAL – MATTHEW 27:2**

*Lector 2* After his trial by the religious leaders, they took Jesus for a civil trial, as the Romans controlled the law enforcement of the occupied territory. This meant they had to come up with a violation of Roman law (as opposed to Jewish law) with which to charge Jesus. Treason — setting oneself up as a rival to Caesar — was the perfect approach to accomplish this.

## THE FIRST STATION... JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

- Lector 1* Jesus stands in the most human of places. he has already experienced profound solidarity with so many on this earth , by being beaten and tortured. Now he is wrongfully condemned to punishment by death.  
His commitment to entering our lives completely begins its final steps. He has said “Yes” to God and placed his life in God’s hands.  
Follow him in this final surrender, and contemplate with reverence each place along the way, as he is broken and given for us.  
This is for us. That we might be free. That we might have eternal life. As the journey begins we ask to be with Jesus. To follow his journey.  
Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,
- Pilot* “Are you the King of the Jews?”
- Lector 1* Jesus said,  
*Jesus* “You say so.”
- Lector 1* But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.  
Then Pilate said to him,
- Pilot* “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”
- Lector 1* But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,
- Pilot* “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”
- Lector 1* For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,
- Lector 2* “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”
- Lector 1* Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,
- Pilot* “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”
- Lector 1* And they said,  
*People* **“Barabbas.”**
- Lector 1* Pilate said to them,  
*Pilot* “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”
- Lector 1* All of them said,  
*People* **“Let him be crucified!”**
- Lector 1* Then he asked,  
*Pilot* “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more,  
*People* **“Let him be crucified!”**
- Lector 1* So 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,  
*Pilot* “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”
- Lector 1* Then the people as a whole answered,  
*People* **“His blood be on us and on our children!”**

*Lector 1* So he released Barabbas for them;  
After flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and 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,

*People* **“Hail, King of the Jews!”**

*Lector 1* They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

## HYMN H-168

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

PASSION HYMN

*(stanzas 1,4)*

**O sacred head, sore wounded, defiled and put to scorn;  
O kingly head, surrounded with mocking crown of thorn:  
what sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflower?  
O countenance whose splendor the hosts of heaven adore!**

**What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?  
Oh, make me thine forever! and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love for thee.**

## THE SECOND STATION... JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

*Lector 1* Jesus is made to carry the cross on which he will die. It represents the weight of all our crosses. What he must have felt as he first took it upon his shoulders! Crucifixion was the form of execution used for peasants, rebels, and others whom the Romans wanted to make an example of, to serve as a warning against bucking the government.

View the scene. Look at Jesus. His face. The crown of thorns. The blood. His clothes stuck to the wounds on his back.

Contemplate the wood of that cross. Imagine how heavy it is. What does it mean that Jesus is carrying it?

With each step he enters more deeply into our human experience. He walks in the path of human misery and suffering, and experiences its crushing weight.

Look into his eyes. It's all there. He's going through this because of his love for us. This is for us. His anguish. Using his utter freedom to make this complete surrender. What emotions rise up: outrage? gratitude? sorrow?

With whatever feelings come forward, continue the journey. Place yourself alongside him in this journey.

### THE THIRD STATION... JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

*Lector 1* The weight is unbearable. Jesus falls under it. How could he enter our lives completely without surrendering to the crushing weight of the life of so many on this earth! He lies on the ground and knows the experience of weakness beneath unfair burdens. He feels the powerlessness of wondering if he will be able to continue. Stare at the weakness in his eyes. Look at his body and see the exhaustion. Behold him there on the ground, and know how profoundly he understands our fatigue and our defeats. He is pulled up and made to continue. This is for us. Watch him stand again as he gains an inner strength to continue on. Continue to follow— knowing this is for us.

### THE FOURTH STATION... JESUS MEETS HIS HOLY MOTHER

*Lector 1* Jesus' path takes him to a source of encouragement and strength. All his life his mother had taught him the meaning of the words, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord." Now they look into each other's eyes. How pierced-through her heart must be! How pained he must be to see her tears! She knows the sorrow and agony in every mother's heart who loses a child to tragedy or violence. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

*Lector 1* Jesus, even in his suffering, has compassion for this vulnerable woman. Watch, and learn from them how to put the needs of others far ahead of our own.

### THE FIFTH STATION... SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

*Lector 1* Jesus even experiences our struggle to receive help. He is made to experience the poverty of not being able to carry his burden alone. He enters into the experience of all who must depend upon others to survive. He is deprived of the personal ability to carry this burden on his own.

Look into his face and consider his struggle. His weariness and fragility. His impotence.

See how he looks at Simon, with utmost humility and gratitude.

He knows our inability to carry our burden alone.

This is for us. Share his anguish and, at the same time, be grateful that he has help.

**Hymn H-158** (*stanzas 1,2,4*)

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,  
that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee: I crucified thee.**

**For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,  
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;  
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.**

## **THE SIXTH STATION... JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME**

*Lector 1* Even with help, Jesus stumbles and falls to the ground. In deep exhaustion he stares at the earth beneath him. "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return." He has seen death before. Now he can feel the profound weakness of disability and disease and aging itself, there on his knees, under the weight of his cross. Jesus is brought very low. Behold him there on the ground, with all the agony taking its toll on him. Let your hearts go out to him. Store up this image, knowing that we need never feel alone, in our suffering or in any diminishment, with this image of Jesus on the ground before us.

## **THE SEVENTH STATION... JESUS COMFORTS THE WEEPING WOMEN OF JERUSALEM**

*Lector 1* The women of Jerusalem come out to comfort him. They had seen his compassion and welcomed his words of healing and freedom. He had broken all kinds of social and religious conventions to connect with them. Now they are here to support him. He feels their grief. He suffers, knowing he can't remain to help them more in this life. He knows the mystery of facing the separation of death.

*Lector 1* Look at their faces. So full of love, loss and fear. Yet he cautions them that they should not weep for Him, but that their concerns should be for themselves and the lives of their children, considering the rising evil throughout the world. Again, even while suffering great pain and personal humiliation, Jesus' concern is not for Himself. It is for the lives and souls of those who face the result of living by the values of oppression and violence. He reminds them of God's call to live in humility, justice and peace, and to live in devotion and obedience to God. Remember all his tender, compassionate, merciful love for us. Stand with these women to support him.

## **THE EIGHTH STATION... JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME**

*Lector 1* This last fall is devastating. Jesus can barely proceed to the end. Summoning all his remaining strength, supported by his inner trust in God, Jesus collapses under the weight of the cross. His executioners look at him as a broken man, pathetic yet paying a price they feel he deserves. Regard him, there on the ground. Remember the words of the prophet of old, and see that now they are fulfilled: by his blood, he reconciled us; by his wounds, we are healed. Experience and receive how completely he loves us. He is indeed completely poured out for us.

## **THE NINTH STATION... JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHING**

*Lector 1* Part of the indignity is to be crucified naked. Jesus is completely stripped of any pride. The wounds on his back are torn open again. He experiences the ultimate vulnerability of the defenseless. No shield or security protects him. As they stare at him, his eyes turn to heaven. Do not flinch; watch the stripping. Everything is taken from him. See how he faces his death with such vulnerability. Look at him in his humility, and acknowledge there is nothing we can go through that he will not understand.

## **THE TENTH STATION... JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

*Lector 1* Huge nails are hammered through his hands and feet to fix him on the cross. As the cross is lifted up, the weight of his life will hang on those nails. Every time he struggles to pull himself up to breathe, his ability to cling to life slips away. Watch the nails being driven through his flesh. Watch his face. He has entered totally and completely into human life, even to cruelty and torture. Can there be any pain or agony he would not understand? This is for us. Nailed to a cross to forever proclaim liberty to captives.

**VOLUNTARY**

Ah, Holy Jesus

David Cherwien

## **THE ELEVENTH STATION... JESUS PROMISES HIS KINGDOM TO THE BELIEVING THIEF**

*Lector 1* Hanging on crosses at Jesus' right and left hand are two criminals. One of these criminals, dying on a cross on one side of Jesus, now takes up the cat-calling begun by the soldiers,

*Thief 1* "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

*Lector 1* But on the other side is another condemned man, also going through the pain of the cross, but as he looks at Jesus he sees, not another dying man, but the Messiah himself.

He says to the first criminal,

*Thief 2* "Don't you fear God since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

*Lector 1* Then to Jesus he says,

*Thief 2* "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

*Lector 1* Jesus answers and says to him,

*Jesus* "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

*Lector 1* What a wonderful promise Jesus gives the believing thief; presence with Christ in paradise!

The Father has given Jesus a believer to be with him. Jesus answers him, as life on earth wanes for them both, "Yes, you'll be with me there — today in paradise. We'll go together, you and I."

No matter how unworthy we are, hear Jesus make this promise to each one of us.

## **THE TWELFTH STATION... JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

*Lector 1* Between two criminals, a mocking title above his head, with only Mary and John and Mary Magdalene to support him. We are close enough to watch and listen to all that is said.

Jesus surrenders his last breath: "Into your hands I commend my spirit," and breathes his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and tombs were opened. When the Centurion who was guarding Jesus saw all that had happened, he exclaimed, "surely this man was the Son of God!"

The one who gives life passes from life to death, for us. What would we say to console Mary and John and Mary? How would they console us? Stand at the foot of the cross, side by side with all of humanity, and behold our salvation.



**When I survey the wondrous cross where the young 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 cross 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?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

### **THE THIRTEENTH STATION... JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

*Lector 1* Jesus' lifeless body lay in his mother's arms. He has truly died. A profound sacrifice, complete.  
Behold this scene at the foot of the cross. Contemplate touching, caressing his body. Remember all that his hands have touched, all who have been blessed by his warm embrace.  
Jesus knows the mystery of death, the mystery that faces all humanity. He has fallen into God's hands.  
For us.  
This is the ultimate sacrifice; this is the act that takes away the sin of the world. Pour out your heart to the God of all mercies that he didn't send his son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

### **THE FOURTEENTH STATION... JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

*Lector 1* They take the body of Jesus to its resting place. The huge stone over the tomb is the final sign of the permanence of death. Oh, that our hearts might burn within us, as we see how much he suffered, how he died, before he would into his glory. And it is all for us.  
In solidarity with all humanity, the body of the Son of Man is taken to its grave. Stand for a moment outside this tomb. This tomb is just like every tomb we stand before with fear, in defeat, struggling to believe and understand such finality. Enter the shock, confusion, sadness and fear. Pray to our God to help us through the night.

**HYMN H-172**

*(stanzas 1,2,4)*

Were You There?

WERE YOU THERE

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

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

**THE SOLEMN COLLECTS**

**INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS**

*Officiant* You are invited to come forward to pray around the Cross.

**HYMN H-498**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see  
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me;  
and from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
the wonders of redeeming love, and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
content to let my pride go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Officiant* Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgement 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.

*People* **Amen.**

## CONCLUDING SCRIPTURE: DEATH — Isaiah 52–53 portions

*Jesus* A reading from the prophet Isaiah:  
[My servant] appeared disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness. He was despised and rejected by mankind. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. Like a lamb being brought to slaughter, like an ewe silent before her shearers, he didn't open his mouth.  
His grave was among the wicked, his tomb with evildoers, though he had done no violence, and had spoken nothing false.  
He was pierced because of our rebellions and crushed because of our crimes. He bore the punishment that made us whole; by his wounds we are healed.

Please depart in silence

## SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Whitney Burton
Deacon	The Rev. Cindy Roehl
Organist	Tom Huffman

## LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Jesus	Brad Guerrie
Soldier	Brett Dickie
Pontius Pilate	Alan Mackay
Servant Girl	Wendy Dickie
Mary	Debra Mackay
Simon of Cyrene	Jay Harvey
Crowd	Wendy Dickie, Sarah Guerrie, Jay Harvey, Debra Mackay, Karen Morris, Anne Punch, Sloan Punch, John Schmidt, Marietta Hall
John	John Schmidt
Mary Magdalene	Sarah Guerrie
Thieves	Tony Bowman & Peter Hall
Narrator	Nels Auger/Heather Elder
Voice of Jesus	David Megel
Voice of Pontius Pilate	Marc Jacobson
Voice of Thief on Cross	Marc Jacobson
Lights	Alan Mackay/Jackson Bond
Director	The Rev. Cindy Roehl, Deacon

## The Way of The Cross

In the gospel reading (John 18:1-19:42), Jesus, looking in the face of death, says, “Put your sword back into its sheath.” Christians throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East do likewise today. As a tiny minority in the region, Christians embody peace and reconciliation. In spite of the ever present threat of violence, Christians work tirelessly to cross political divides and provide healthcare to people in need. In underserved cities and towns, Christian hospitals and clinics are beacons of hope for those who have no other access to medical care. Amidst great hardship, Christians focus on increasing cooperation and goodwill, even to the point of risking their lives, as they insist on weapons-free campuses where all people are treated as children of God.

Through the Good Friday Offering, we express solidarity with Christians in the Middle East as we accompany Jesus to his trial, proclaiming, “Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?” As Christians, we are one family, one body in Christ. What is asked of our brethren in the Middle East is also asked of us. We must stand united, actively pursuing peace and reconciliation among all people.

Inspired by Christians in the Middle East, we put our own faith in action through the Good Friday Offering, increasing their peacemaking efforts and easing their struggle to maintain the Christian presence in the land of Jesus. Following Jesus’ example of love and healing, the dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East reach out to feed the poor, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and live their faith. Now is our time to help.

Since 1922, Episcopalians have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering. Through the work of the Episcopal dioceses in the Middle East, Christians maintain a peacemaking and stabilizing presence in the region, serving their neighbors regardless of faith background. *All loose offerings and those marked “Good Friday Offering” will be donated to this effort.*