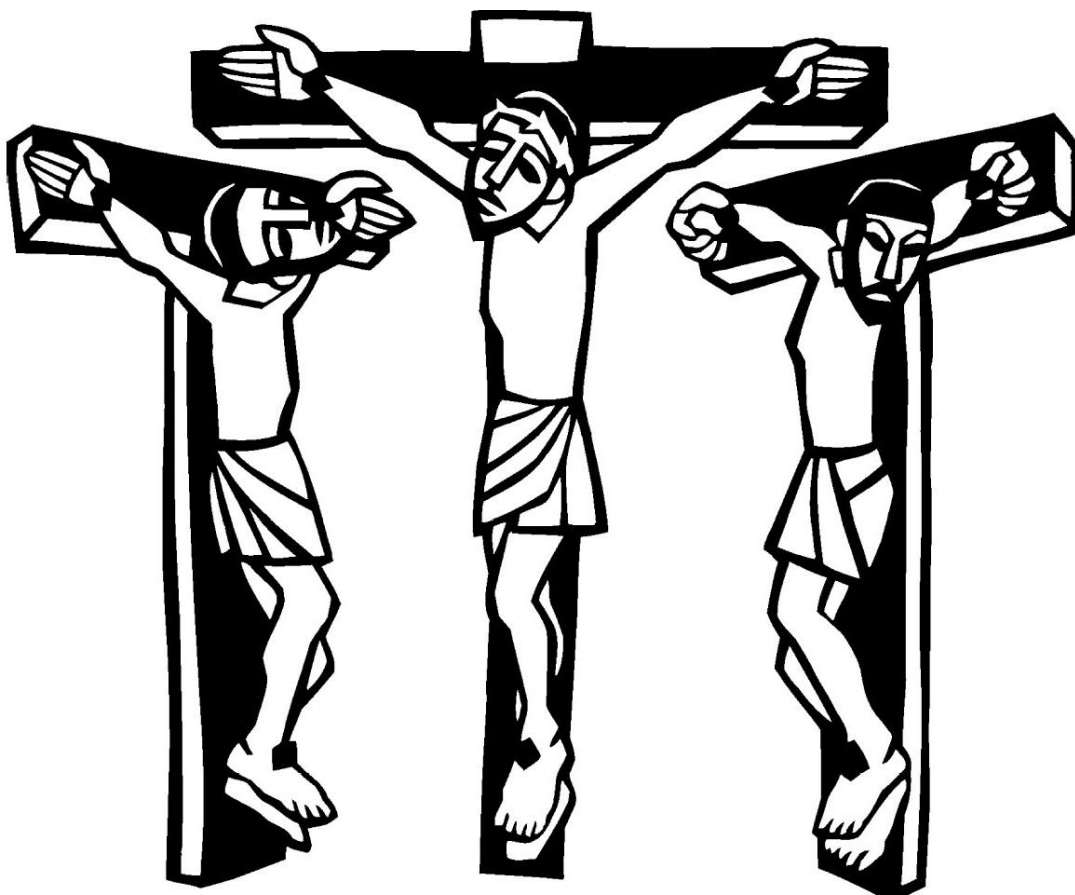


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*Good Friday Service
March 29, 2024*

March 29, 2024 – GOOD FRIDAY

*Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On several key days at the center of the church year, however, worship takes a particular shape. These central days have come to be known as the **Triduum**, the Three Days, recalling Jesus' own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that "after three days he will rise again" (Mark 10:34). The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday through the evening of Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter unfold in a single movement, as the church each year makes the passage with Christ through death into life. We gather in solemn devotion, as we continue the service we began yesterday on Maundy Thursday. We cling to the promise that the tree (the cross) around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. As we gather in silence, we will also depart silently this day, as we anticipate the culmination of the Triduum on the Day of Resurrection.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your beloved people, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and was willing to be given over to the hands of sinners, and was willing to suffer death on the cross. We gather in his name, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOOD FRIDAY PASSION NARRATIVE

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In the passion account, a compilation taken from all four of the Gospels, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. We find ourselves in this story as part of the crowds that has just days before shouted glad "Hosannas" to now being a people wanting to silence the Messiah in their midst. We are both faithful and fearful in our human imperfection, the very embodiment of why it became necessary for God, and through Christ Jesus, to give his life for us in such a sacrificial way. There will be four different readers today—a narrator, Jesus, Pilate, and the people, some who cried out for his death and others weeping and standing at the foot of the cross. We end this gathering as we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, remembering Christ's death offers life to all.

Jesus First Appearance Before Pilate: *Jerusalem, Praetorium*

NARRATOR: ^{JOHN 18:28} Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.

PILATE: ²⁹ Pilate then went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?”

PEOPLE: ³⁰ They answered and said to him, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.”

PILATE: ³¹ Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.”

PEOPLE: Therefore, the Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” ³² that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. ^{LUKE 23:2} And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.”

PILATE: ^{JOHN 18:33} Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

JESUS: ³⁴ Jesus answered him, “**Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?**”

PILATE: ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?”

JESUS: ³⁶ Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.**”

PILATE: ³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”

JESUS: Jesus answered, “**You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.**” ^{MATTHEW 27:11B} “**It is as you say.**”

NARRATOR: ¹² And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

PILATE: ¹³ Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” ¹⁴ But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. ^{LUKE 23:4} So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no fault in this Man.”

PEOPLE: ⁵ But they were insistent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.”

Pilate Sends Jesus to Herod *Jerusalem, Herod’s Palace*

NARRATOR: ^{LUKE 23:6} When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. ⁷ And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸ Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see Him perform some sign. ⁹ Then Herod questioned Him with many words, but Jesus gave no answer. ¹⁰ And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. ¹¹ Then Herod, with his soldiers treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in an elegant robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. ¹² That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been enemies.

Jesus’ Second Appearance before Pilate: *Jerusalem, Praetorium*

PILATE: ^{LUKE 23:13} Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, ¹⁴ said to them, “You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; ¹⁵ no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. ¹⁶ I will therefore have Him flogged and release Him”

NARRATOR: MATTHEW 27:15 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. ¹⁶ And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ Therefore, when they had gathered together,

PILATE: Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸ For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

NARRATOR: ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.” ²⁰ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor answered and said to them,

PILATE: “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

PEOPLE: LUKE 23:18 And they all cried out at once, saying, “Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas”—¹⁹ who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.

PILATE: ²⁰ Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them.

PEOPLE: ²¹ But they shouted, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!”

PILATE: ²² Then he said to them the third time, “Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go.”

PEOPLE: ²³ But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.

“Behold the Man!”: *Jerusalem, Praetorium*

NARRATOR JOHN 19:1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. MATTHEW 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying,

PEOPLE: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

NARRATOR: 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. JOHN 19:3B And they struck Him with their hands. MATTHEW 27:31 And when they had mocked Him, JOHN 19:4 Pilate then went out again, and said to them,

PILATE: “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.” 5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!”

PEOPLE: 6 Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!”

PILATE: Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.”

PEOPLE: 7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”

PILATE: 8 Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, 9 and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”

JESUS: 11 Jesus answered, **“You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”**

PEOPLE: ¹² From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, “If you let this man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”

NARRATOR: ¹³ When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour.

PILATE: And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”

PEOPLE: ¹⁵ But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!”

PILATE: Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

PEOPLE: The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!”

Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified: *Jerusalem, Praetorium*

PILATE: MATTHEW 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.”

PEOPLE: ²⁵ And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children.”

The Way to Golgotha: *From the Governor’s Palace, through the city, outside the gate of Jerusalem, Golgotha*

NARRATOR: MARK 15:20 And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

²¹ Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. LUKE 23:27 And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him.

JESUS: ²⁸ But Jesus, turning to them, said, “**Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.**
²⁹ For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!’
³⁰ Then they will begin ‘to say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!” ’ ³¹ For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?”

NARRATOR: MARK 15:22 & JOHN 19:17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha
LUKE 23:32 There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. LUKE 23:33 And they had come to the place called Calvary. LUKE 23:32 & JOHN 19:18 They crucified Him, and two others criminals with Him, one on either side, one on the right hand and the other on the left, and Jesus in the center. MARK 15:23 Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it. LUKE 23:33 There they crucified Him, and the criminals.

CHOIR HYMN: *“Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”*
(Congregation is welcome to sing along) (vs. 1-3)

The Crucifixion: *Golgotha*

JESUS: ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.**”

NARRATOR: ¹⁹ Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS

²⁰ Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

PEOPLE: ²¹ Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews.” ’ ”

PILATE: ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

PEOPLE: ²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.

²⁴ They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: *“They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”*

NARRATOR: Therefore, the soldiers did these things.

²⁵ Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by,

JESUS: He said to His mother, **“Woman, behold your son!”** ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, **“Behold your mother!”** And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

PEOPLE: MATTHEW 27:38 Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. ⁴³ He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

LUKE 23:39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

JESUS: LUKE 23:43 And Jesus said to him, **“Truly, I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”**

NARRATOR: MATTHEW 27:45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.

JESUS: ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” that is, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*”

PEOPLE: ⁴⁷ Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!”

NARRATOR: JOHN 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said,

JESUS: “*I thirst!*”

NARRATOR: ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

PEOPLE: MATTHEW 27:49 The rest said, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.”

JESUS: JOHN 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “*It is finished!*” LUKE 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “*Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.*” Having said this, He breathed His last. JOHN 19:30B And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: “*Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*”
verses.1&2

NARRATOR: MATTHEW 27:51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵² and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

PEOPLE: ⁵⁴ So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God!” LUKE 23:47B “Certainly this was a righteous Man!”

NARRATOR: ⁴⁸ And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. ⁴⁹ But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. ^{MARK 15:40} There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Jesus' Side Pierced

NARRATOR: ^{JOHN 19:31} Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "*Not one of His bones shall be broken.*" ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "*They shall look on Him whom they pierced.*"

Burial of Jesus: *The Tomb in the Garden, close to Golgotha*

NARRATOR: ^{MARK 15:42} Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

PILATE: ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

PEOPLE: ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. ^{JOHN 19:39} And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby. ^{MARK 15:46B} And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.

NARRATOR: ^{LUKE 23: 55} And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

PEOPLE: ^{MATTHEW 27:62} On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, ⁶³ saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

PILATE: ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

A Brief Time of Silent Reflection Will Be Kept

BIDDING PRAYER

The assembly remains seated. The minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). A moment of silence follows each bid. The minister leads the prayers. The worship concludes in silence.

P Let us pray, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for the leaders in the Church.

Silent prayer

P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to faithfully do the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for others to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that all people may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P We worship you, Christ Jesus, and we glorify your name

C By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

We depart this service in silence

All are invited and welcome to return on Sunday morning at 10:30 to complete this Triduum on the Day of Resurrection.