

**In Preparation for Worship**

With this Good Friday liturgy, we continue our celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Though we gather to recall our Lord's passion, we celebrate the wonder and mystery of the cross in the sure hope of the resurrection. Today we pray around the cross as the sign of the world's redemption. From the cross flows forgiveness, healing, and salvation. We acclaim the cross as the tree of life, for as Christ vanquishes death and evil, the world is given new birth and a living hope. With all the faithful we are invited to worship, giving thanks for this great mystery of our faith. We depart in silence, ready to return for the Easter celebration and the culmination of The Three Days

**Prelude**

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, On this day we gather to remember the death of Jesus at the hands of human sin. He was despised and rejected, oppressed and afflicted, yet he was prepared to be wounded for the sake of God's grace and truth. We come overwhelmed by the depth of Jesus' love for us, and his commitment to a different way than the world and we deliver. In response to such love and sacrifice, we hear ourselves called, as his disciples, to overcome evil with good, suffering with wholeness, oppression with justice, and conflict with peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

**Opening Hymn**                      *This is the Night*                      No. 206

*The Passion of Jesus Christ According to John*

**The First Lesson                      John 18:1-11**

*Betrayal and Arrest*

**Hymn**                      *Ah, Holy Jesus*                      No. 218

**The Second Lesson                      Luke 18:12-27**

*Jesus Before the High Priest*

**Hymn**                      *Go to Gethsemane*                      No. 220

**The Third Lesson                      John 18:28-38**

*Jesus Before Pilate*

**Hymn**                      *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*                      No. 216

**Confession of Sin (Unison)**

**Holy God, we admit that we struggle with this day. We struggle with Good Friday for three reasons. First, no one likes to see another suffer. On this day we are face to face with the cross, and your suffering is hard for us to bear. Second, the pain of this day reminds us of the pain of past and present days, and our own pain is hard for us to bear. Third, we are reminded of the suffering we cast onto others, which means we have to confront the pain we have caused you. So, forgive us for skirting around the edges of this day. Forgive us for averting our eyes and avoiding the sinking feeling in our chests. Forgive us for distracting ourselves from the hurt and forgive us for the ways in which we add to the suffering of this world. We do not like to be here— A place of grief and despair, At the foot of the cross, Face to face with state-sanctioned violence. And yet, here is where we are. So, forgive us, and then use us for your good. Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn** *They Crucified My Lord* No. 219

**The Fourth Lesson** **John 18:38-19:16**  
*The Trial*

**Hymn** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* No. 223

**The Fifth Lesson** **John 19:17-30**  
*The Crucifixion*

**Hymn** *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* No. 221

**The Sixth Lesson** **John 19:38-42**  
*The Burial*

**Hymn** *Were You There?* No. 228

**Affirmation of Faith (Unison)**

We believe in the long night of the soul— The spaces and times when despair weighs on us like a blanket. We believe those seasons of life are real, And that each and every one of us experiences them. We refuse to believe that pain and suffering hold the last word; For we believe in Jesus of Nazareth Who was betrayed and bloodied, so many years ago, And whose narrative didn't stop there. So while we are here, Again, At the foot of the cross, Knee deep in despair, And face to face with pain, We profess: We believe in the sunrise. We believe in the power of gathering together. We believe that phone calls and hugs can make a difference. We believe that life is not fair, but is overflowing with love. We believe that we cannot go this path alone. We believe that even here, even on this day, God is drawing near. Amen.

*Depart in Silence*

