

# Good Friday with Bethel and Portsmouth Trinity Lutheran Churches

## Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here, and we pray God will be real to you as you worship with us. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation; therefore, we invite all people, including those of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, ages, economic levels, and abilities. God loves all creation and holds us all, so we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We honor and appreciate the rich diversity of age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity and expression, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

## PRELUDE

### WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

The King is coming.  
Our God arrives, clothed in frail human flesh,  
riding a meek donkey's foal.

This is not the first time you have come to us, O God  
The history of human affairs is the history of your arrival among us,  
As Creator,  
Purpose-Giver,  
Liberator,  
Prophet's voice and  
Priest's desire.

The story of each of our lives is the story of your coming to us,  
As Comforter,  
Friend,  
Example,  
Challenger  
Abundant-Life-Provider,

And so we praise you;

Open our eyes to your Presence, Lord;  
Come to us again, Lord;  
Hosanna – Save us again, Lord.

And be glorified among us.  
For you are our God.

Amen.

— by John van de Laar.

## GATHERING HYMN

## Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!  
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

## The Meal: Preparations

It was two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and legal experts through cunning tricks were searching for a way to arrest Jesus and kill him. But they agreed that it shouldn't happen during the festival; otherwise, there would be uproar among the people.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?"

He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city. A man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks, "Where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?" ' He will show you a large room upstairs already furnished. Prepare for us there."

The disciples left came into the city, found everything just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

That evening, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. During the meal, Jesus said, "I assure you that one of you will betray me—someone eating with me."

Deeply saddened, they asked him, one by one, "It's not me, is it?"

Jesus answered, "It's one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me into this bowl. The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. I assure you that I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way in God's kingdom." After singing songs of praise, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus said to them, "You will all falter in your faithfulness to me. It is written, I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep will go off in all directions. But after I'm raised up, I will go before you to Galilee. "

# Lighting of the Candles

## Confession and Forgiveness

God of Justice,  
God of Compassion,  
God of Sacred and Scandalous ways,  
We have so much still to learn.

By your grace, we have come to know love more deeply than once before -  
its mess, its complexity, its stubborn and tender truths transform us more  
each day.

Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us.  
You draw us into the heart of Wisdom,  
Saving us from lies of destruction,  
Turning us towards hope that liberates,  
But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you...

And so, when we are afraid. Or hurt. Or weary...  
We betray the very One who brought us thus far.

We confess, we still shame Jesus,  
when in righteous anger he turns over tables.  
We confess, we still condemn Jesus,  
when he breaks the rules to which we are loyal.  
We confess, when Jesus is sitting lonely on the street  
with no one to welcome them home,  
our attention is often elsewhere.

Our priorities are not your own.

Search our hearts, O God, meet us there with your good news that sets the  
captives free to embody your love.  
Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

*Silence is kept for contemplation.*

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy.  
 God does not bind us to our regrets.  
 Or forever hold us to what we once believed.  
 God says, come and follow!  
 Know forgiveness and sin no more.  
 Love abounds. And Justice shall be manifest!  
 Wherever new life is desired,  
 may the peace of Christ be welcomed among us.  
 Thanks be to God who leads us on paths of resurrection.



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

## The Garden

Peter said to him, "Even if everyone else stumbles, I won't."

But Jesus said to him, "I assure you that on this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Peter insisted, "If I must die alongside you, I won't deny you." And they all said the same thing.

Jesus and his disciples came to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, "Sit here while I pray."

He took Peter, James, and John along with him. He began to feel despair and was anxious. He said to them, "I'm very sad. It's as if I'm dying. Stay here and keep alert."

Then he went a short distance farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if possible, he might be spared the time of suffering. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible. Take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want."

He came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you stay alert for one hour? Stay alert and pray so that you won't give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak."

Again, he left them and prayed, repeating the same words. And, again, when he came back, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open, and they didn't know how to respond to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Will you sleep and rest all night? That's enough! The time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let's go! Look, here comes my betrayer."

Suddenly, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came with a mob carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests, legal experts, and elders. His betrayer had given them a sign:

"Arrest the man I kiss, and take him away under guard."

As soon as he got there, Judas said to Jesus, "Rabbi!"

Then he kissed him. Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. One of the bystanders drew a sword and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his ear. Jesus responded,

"Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like an outlaw? Day after day, I was with you, teaching in the temple, but you didn't arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

And all his disciples left him and ran away. One young man, a disciple, was wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They grabbed him, but he left the linen cloth behind and ran away naked.

# Hymn of Reflection

# Ah Holy Jesus Verses 1 & 2



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading

## The Trial

They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and legal experts gathered. Peter followed him from a distance, right into the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the guards, warming himself by the fire. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they couldn't find any. Many brought false testimony against him, but they contradicted each other. Some stood to offer false witness against him, saying,

"We heard him saying, 'I will destroy this temple, constructed by humans, and within three days I will build another, one not made by humans.' "

But their testimonies didn't agree even on this point.

Then the high priest stood up in the middle of the gathering and examined Jesus.

"Aren't you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?"

But Jesus was silent and didn't answer. Again, the high priest asked,

"Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?"

Jesus said,

"I am. And you will see the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

"Why do we need any more witnesses? You've heard his insult against God. What do you think? "

They all condemned him.

"He deserves to die!"

Some began to spit on him. Some covered his face and hit him, saying, "Prophecy!" Then the guards took him and beat him.

## First Candle Extinguished



## **4<sup>th</sup> Reading**

## **To Pilate**

At daybreak, the chief priests—with the elders, legal experts, and the whole Sanhedrin—formed a plan.

They bound Jesus, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.”

The chief priests were accusing him of many things. Pilate asked him again, “Aren’t you going to answer? What about all these accusations?”

But Jesus gave no more answers so that Pilate marveled.

## **Second Candle Extinguished**

## **5<sup>th</sup> Reading**

## **Kings and Power**

During the festival, Pilate released one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. A man named Barabbas was locked up with the rebels who had committed murder during an uprising. The crowd pushed forward and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did. Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”

He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy. So the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead. Pilate replied, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?”

They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done?”

They shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

## **Third Candle Extinguished**

## 6<sup>th</sup> Reading

## Crucified

The soldiers took Jesus, carrying his cross, to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, Golgotha ). That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a public notice written and posted on the cross. It read "Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

The Jewish chief priests complained to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The king of the Jews' but 'This man said, "I am the king of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I've written, I've written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and his sandals, and divided them into four shares, one for each soldier. His shirt was seamless, woven as one piece from the top to the bottom. They said to each other,

"Let's not tear it. Let's cast lots to see who will get it."

This was to fulfill the scripture:  
They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and they cast lots for my clothing.

## Fourth Candle Extinguished



## Hymn of Reflection

## They Crucified My Lord



1 They cru - ci - fied my Lord, and he nev - er said a mum - ba - lin' word;  
2 They nailed him to a tree, and he nev - er said a mum - ba - lin' word;  
3 They pierced him in the side, and he nev - er said a mum - ba - lin' word;  
4 The blood came stream - in' down, and he nev - er said a mum - ba - lin' word;  
5 He hung his head and died, and he nev - er said a mum - ba - lin' word;



they cru - ci - fied my Lord, and he nev - er said a mum - ba - lin' word;  
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the blood came stream - in' down, and he nev - er said a mum - ba - lin' word;  
he hung his head and died, and he nev - er said a mum - ba - lin' word;



not a word, not a word, not a word.

*mumbalin' = complaining*

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SUFFERER, African American spiritual

## 7<sup>th</sup> Reading

## Behold Your Mother. Behold Your Son.

Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross.

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.

## **Fifth Candle Extinguished**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Reading**

### **The Deep Dark Void**

From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark.

At three, Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eli, eli, lama sabachthani," which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me?"

## **Sixth Candle Extinguished**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Reading**

### **Thirst**

After hearing him, some standing there said, "Look! He's calling Elijah!" Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down."

But Jesus let out a loud cry and died.

The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

## **Benediction**

Gathered at the cross we shrink from bearing,  
may you be blessed by God whose presence  
does not shrink from us.

Go from this place and keep your vigil at the cross.

Go in peace this night.

May the peace of God go with you.

## **Seventh Candle Extinguished**

### **Exit in Silence**

