HEARTS BROKEN OPEN

Evening Worship | March 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM | Christ the King / Cristo Rey

INTRODUCTION

Tonight, the story of Jesus' death will remind us not only of our ultimate liberation from death, but also of the quiet joy our Creator holds for us when we cannot carry it ourselves. As Christians, we hold the grief of this day alongside the goodness of God. We know this story is not the end.

GATHER

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Aria on Via Dolorosa arr. Dale Wood

King's Ringers Handbell Choir

WELCOME

INVOCATION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign made at baptism.

We gather for worship to practice joy:

not because our lives are perfect,

but because joy is resilient.

In the name of the holy Trinity, +one God,

who makes beautiful things out of the dust.

Amen

GATHERING SONG When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ELW 803

PRAYER

Open our hearts, O God,

even to the point of breaking.

If they break, let them be broken open

to receive the love and awe waiting at the foot of the cross.

Open them to our neighbors, here at home and around the world.

Open them to the courage to accept what shadows can reveal.

Open them to joy that waits beyond the pain.



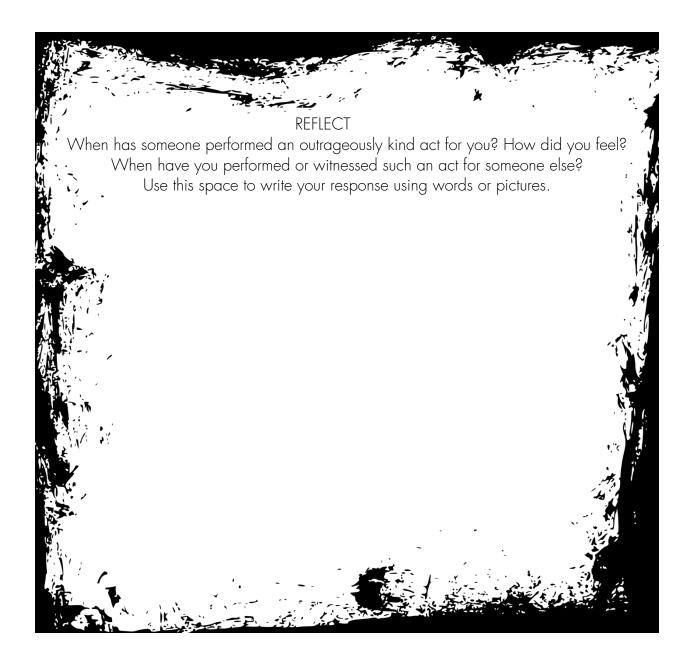
WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, preaching, and song.

LISTEN Mark 14:1-9

Mary of Bethany Anoints Jesus

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people." ³While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."



PRAY
Holy One,
an act of extravagant kindness bolstered your child
for terrible suffering to come.
When suffering finds us and those we love,
pour out such compassion on us.
Soften our hearts that we can pour ourselves out
in kindness and service to others.
Let greater suffering always inspire greater care.

Amen

RESPOND

Nothing to Fear Megan + Nate, vocal duet Porter's Gate

The first candle is extinguished.

Mark 14:10-26 LISTEN

The Passover Meal

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. ¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, 14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. ¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not 1?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." ²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. 24He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." 26When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

RFFIFCT

In this reading, betrayal and celebration are intertwined. When have you felt betrayal or discord break into a time of joy, or joy break into a time of pain and disappointment? Have you seen this in your church, neighborhood, or nation? Reflect on the images of the Last Supper on the screen while you consider these questions.

PRAY

Holy One,

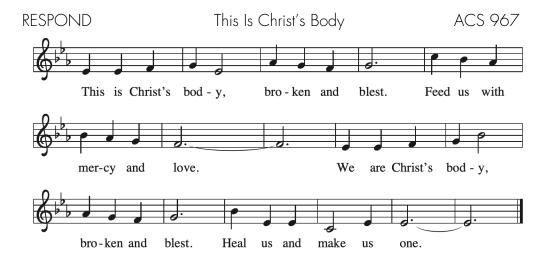
even in moments of deepest human failure, you are there.

Even in times of betrayal and abandonment, you are near.

You are present to us in bread and cup, and you are present to us

in the imperfect human companions you've given us.

Break our hearts open to recognize you and the gifts you offer.



The second candled is extinguished.

LISTEN Mark 14:32-46

Prayer and Betrayal

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." 35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." ⁴³Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

PRAY

Holy One,

allow our prayer to call out so continuously and to listen so fervently that, waking or sleeping, we are always connected to you. In the silence, the rant, the plea, the praise, let us always be drawn deeper into relationship.

The third candled is extinguished.

LISTEN Mark 14:53-54, 66-72

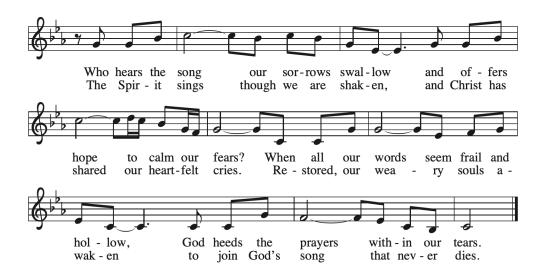
Peter Denies Jesus

⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. ⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." ⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

REFLECT Pastor Sarah Anderson

PRAY
Holy One,
give us faith to claim you
with what we do and what we say.
And when we do not,
send us companions to remind us of your call
and to show us grace for our failures.





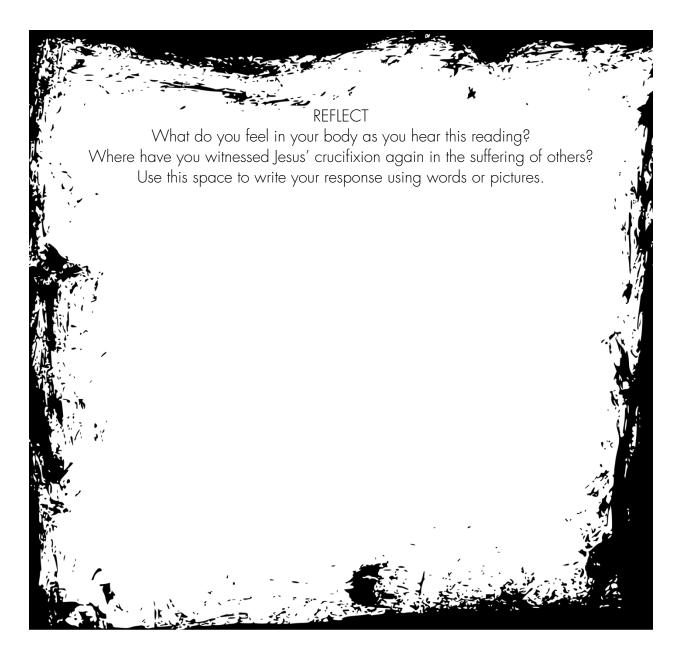
The fourth candled is extinguished.

FIFTH READING

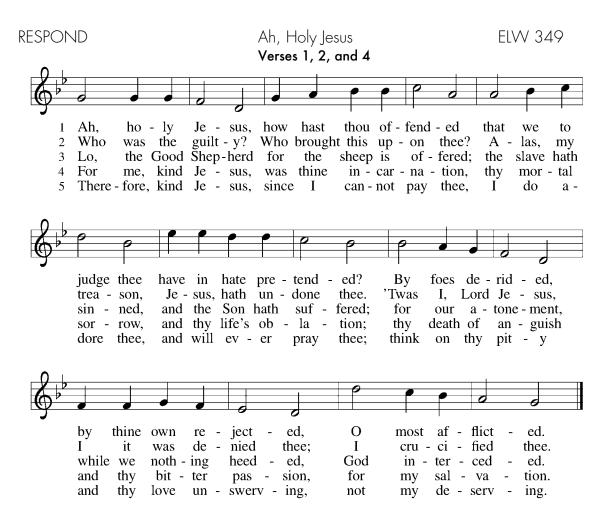
Mark 15:16-40

Jesus is Crucified

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. 33When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock lesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" 40There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.



PRAY
Holy One,
Jesus' death destroyed death
and all that would separate us from you.
Yet your children still suffer
without any need or reason.
Liberate us
so that we turn to free and heal others
who are still crucified today.



The fifth candled is extinguished.

LISTEN

Mark 15:42-47

Jesus is Buried

⁴²When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

REFLECT

Pastor Sonja Hagander

PRAY

Holy One,

even after all he suffered, Jesus' friends tended his body with love. May we tend lovingly to all the dead, so that our last acts and last words testify to your love that lasts far beyond death.

RESPOND

When the Light is Gone Megan + Nate, vocal duet

Zach

The sixth candled is extinguished.

Silence.

INVITATION TO THE CROSS Jesus, in his suffering and death,

reveals the very heart of God,

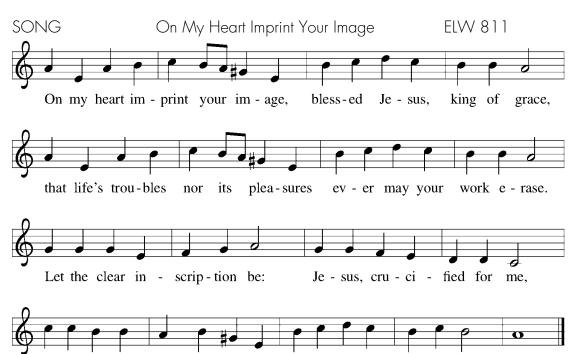
- a heart of pure unspeakable love,
- a heart that risks everything for the sake of love,
- a heart open to the suffering of others,
- and broken by the cruelty of others,
- a heart alive with love that death could not hold.

Come, to the cross, to the heart of God.

Bring your own heart as it is —
hardened or cold, broken or empty,
fearful or unfaithful, for God welcomes it
and breathes into it the Spirit of Christ's love.

PRAYER AT THE CROSS

All are invited to pray at the cross for as long as you need. You are welcome to light a candle. You are also welcome to remain seated and pray in silence or join in singing.



is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, all my glo-ry

and sal-va



Silence.

CLOSING PRAYER
Compassionate God,
in Christ's gentle and suffering love
you have shown us the way of abundant life.
Keep us joined to Christ's life-giving passion,
that our hearts may know the joy and freedom
for which you have created us, now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father...

SEND

God blesses us and sends us to join God's mission in the world.

SENDING SONG

Were You There

ELW 353

The seventh candle is extinguished.

SENDING WORDS

Christ has died.

Go out into the world, holding the grief of this night for Jesus and for all with whom he suffers. Go out into the world, perceiving more than the suffering. Go out into the world, hearts broken open

Amen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Or remain to pray.

to receive the gifts of God.

Thanks be to God.

All may depart in silence.

Good Friday offering may be placed in the offering plate near the back of the Sanctuary.