

ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK



As we come to the end of Lent,
we begin a journey into darkness to a place of deep shadows.
Today we accompany Jesus in his last hours.
We witness the cruelties and the suffering he endures.
We listen to the words of condemnation and ridicule.
In all this he is innocent.
He is the faithful servant of God, doing his Father's work;
bringing the gospel of love, peace and hope.

And so, in this liturgy,
we are invited to walk solemnly and attentively with Jesus.
Better to know.
Better to understand.
Better to be his friend, his disciple, his witness.
Be still and know that God is here.

OFFICIANTS – Doreen Davidson, Walter Stewart, Debbi Toole
MUSICIAN – Ronald Dyck

This service is adapted from an Order of Service from Dorchester Abbey

The ministers enter the church in silence and proceed to their places.

Hymn: My Song is Love Unknown – Common Praise 184

The Tenebrae candles, along with a central Christ candle, are lighted at this point; then one is extinguished at the conclusion of each section.

First Reading: The Last Supper (Doreen Davidson)

Matthew 26:17-29

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

The reader extinguishes the first candle.

Musical meditation – "Betrachte Meine Seele" (from St. John Passion) by JS Bach

Prayer

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end
and drank the cup prepared for him:
may we who share his table
watch with him through the night of suffering
and be faithful.

All: Amen.

Second Reading: Jesus is betrayed and arrested (Debbi Toole)

Matthew 26:36-56

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my

Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

The reader extinguishes the second candle.

Responsory

On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to the Father: Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me,

All: The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.

Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation

Taize Chant: Stay With me, Remain Here With Me

1st time Cantor then 2 times everyone

The musical notation is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the chant, with lyrics underneath: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "pray, watch and pray.". Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm, Dm, C, F, C, Dm, Asus, A. Dashed circles highlight specific musical phrases: the first measure of the first staff, the first two measures of the second staff, and the final two measures of the second staff.

Prayer

God of every human being,
in a world where we are bewildered
by the incomprehensible suffering of the innocent,
how can we be witnesses to the Gospel?
Enable us to manifest a reflection of the compassion of Christ
by the lives that we live.

All: Amen

Third Reading: Jesus before Pilate (Bridget Metzger)

Mark 15: 1-5

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So, they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied.

The chief priests accused him of many things. So again, Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

The reader extinguishes the third candle.

Hymn: Who Would Ever Have Believed It – Common Praise 199

Prayer

May the power of your love, O Lord,
fiery and sweet as honey,
so absorb our hearts
as to withdraw them from all that is under heaven.
Grant that we may be ready
To die for love of your love
As you died for love of our love.

All: Amen

Fourth Reading Jesus is crucified (John Metzger)

Mark 15: 16-32

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The reader extinguishes the fourth candle

Hymn: O Sacred Head, Surrounded – Common Praise 198

Prayer

Dear God,

We remember the pain and suffering of the cross, and all that Jesus was willing to endure, so we could be set free. He paid the price, such a great sacrifice, to offer us the gift of eternal life.

Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love on our behalf. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Forgive us for being too busy, or distracted by other things, for not fully recognizing what you freely given, what you have done for us.

All: Amen

Fifth Reading: Jesus dies on the cross (Noreen Davies)

Matthew 27:45-54

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

The reader extinguishes the fifth candle

Responsory

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you

By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God Chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you

We preach Christ crucified,

The power of God and the wisdom of God.

By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world

God forbid that I should glory,

Save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you

By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world

Hymn: Were You There? – Common Praise 192 – Verses 1 – 5

Verse 1, Cantor Only – Verses 2-5 – Everyone

Prayer

(True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

All: Amen

Sixth Reading: The suffering (Lolla Devindisch)

Servant Isaiah 52:13 - 53:5

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him
so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
so he shall startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.
Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are
healed.

The reader extinguishes the sixth candle

Musical meditation: 'Liebster Jesus, Wir Sind Hier' (BWV 731) by JS Bach

Prayer

Dear God,
We remember Jesus, who died on a cross to show love for all the world and to
bring hope to every situation. Help us to share that love and hope with our
families, our friends and our world.

All: Amen

Seventh Reading: Jesus is laid in the tomb (Walter Stewart)

Matthew 27:62-66

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees
went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that
deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to
be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal

the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

“Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

The reader hides the seventh candle behind the altar and the altar candles are extinguished

As our Saviour Christ Taught Us

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty Father,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and given into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross.

Nothing further is said; but a noise is made, and the remaining candle is brought from its hiding place before being extinguished

The ministers and people depart in silence.