

**A Service of Worship for
Good Friday
April 18, 2025**

Gathering & Greeting

***Call to Worship**

This saying is sure and worthy of acceptance:

Christ came to save sinners.

On the cross, Jesus bore our Sin.

His life was broken in order that we might live.

We come to worship our Lord and King

We come to lay our sins at his feet.

***Hymn Of Gathering**

UMH #301

"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

*Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.*

Refrain:

*In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me.
(Refrain)*

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me.
(Refrain)*

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river.
(Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

*Lord, you came to bring us a new understanding of God,
But we have failed to grasp that understanding.
You came offering a gift of living water,
But we too often have chosen to drink from our own
wells.
You have offered us healing grace,
But we have preferred to wallow in our self-pity.
You taught us to love those who are different,
But we look down on them instead.
You came to stand with us in our time of pain,
But we have become lost in our self-sorrow.
Lord, so much of what you came to do gets lost in our
selfishness,
But your gift of love has never failed us.
As we behold the cross, give us eyes to see your grace
That we may know the truth about ourselves and discover
the real Truth of your love. Amen.*

Absolution

L: As we come to stand before the cross, we hear the voice of Jesus proclaim; *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”* As Jesus forgave those who crucified him, so he offers forgiveness to us even now.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

P: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Lesson

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

Hymn of Preparation

UMH #292

“What Wondrous Love is This?”

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life

*to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.*

*And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and through eternity I’ll sing on.*

Gospel Lesson

John 19:13-16

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Meditation at the Cross

Roy Spore

*Hymn of Commitment

UMH #288

“Were You There?”

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)*

* * * * *

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (were you there)

Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (were you there)

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (were you there)

Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (were you there)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? ((were you there)

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

***Benediction**

Because of the special nature of this service, we invite the congregation to leave the service in silence. Feel free to visit with your friends and the staff outside the sanctuary.

Join us for Easter brunch at 9:45 Sunday, followed by our service of resurrection at 11:00.