

ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Welcome

Whether you are a first-time visitor, longtime member, or somewhere in-between, welcome to this place where together we sing, read, pray, listen, and break bread in thanksgiving and praise of the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world.

For more information

- *Fill out a welcome card, located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate or return it by mail.*
- *Call the Parish Office at 225-387-5141 with questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other needs.*

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

April 13, 2025
10:30A.M.

Voluntary

Meditation: *Love Unknown*

Francis Jackson (1917-2022)

Welcome & Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

All stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
People **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Luke 19:28-40

Gospeler A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Gospeler The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Blessing of the Palms

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 People Hosanna in the highest.

Hymn 154

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
 People And also with you.
 Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated for the lessons.

The Lessons

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sung by the Choir
Psalm 31:9-16

Plainchant, Tone VIII.2

- ⁹ Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
- ¹⁰ For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.
- ¹¹ I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- ¹² I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- ¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.
- ¹⁴ But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *
I have said, "You are my God.
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- ¹⁶ Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Music: Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624–1683)

My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die. He came from his blest throne, salvation to bestow: but men made strange, and none the longed for Christ would know. But O my friend, my friend indeed who at my need his life did spend! Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day Hosannas to their King. Then 'Crucify' is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry. Here I might stay and sing, no story so divine; never was love dear King, never was grief like thine! This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend. Amen.

All stand.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the Prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People–Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

The musical notation is for the prayer "Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer." It features two staves. The top staff is for the "Deacon or Cantor" and the bottom staff is for the "People (unison or harmony)". Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody for the Deacon/Cantor part is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics "Lord, in your mer - cy Hear our prayer." are written below the top staff. The bottom staff has a similar melody: G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3-G3 (beamed eighth notes), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half). The lyrics "Hear our prayer." are written below the bottom staff.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the clergy and people of St. Matthew's Church and School, Houma, and for the Environmental Commission.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Henri, Dan, Bodo, Rachel, Elise, Cate, Ed, Trey, Amelia, Matthew, Lin, Brent, Sally, Beth, and those on our prayer list; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Tony Sonnier, Harry Roberts, Susan Olds, Ida Evans, and Barbara Bergeron, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We also pray for expectant mothers, especially Carrie Grace, Jordan, Caroline, Danyelle, Maddy, and Anna Katherine, that they may happily come to the time of birth, and serving you in all things may rejoice in your providence.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession & Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

All stand.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Birthday Blessings

Offertory Anthem

Music: Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988), *Solus ad Victimam*
Words: Peter Abelard (1079–1142)

Alone to sacrifice thou goest, Lord, giving thyself to Death whom thou hast slain. For us thy wretched folk is any word? Who know that for our sins this is thy pain? For they are ours, O Lord, our deeds, why must thou suffer torture for our sin? Let our hearts suffer in the Passion, Lord, that very suffering may thy mercy win. This is the night of tears, the three days' space, sorrow abiding of the eventide, until the day break with the risen Christ, and heart that sorrowed shall be satisfied. So may our hearts share in thine anguish, Lord, that they may sharers of thy glory be; heavy with weeping may the three days pass, to win the laughter of thine Easter Day.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer D

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

The people may stand or kneel

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, St. James, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

S 161

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

The Gifts of God for the People of God. [Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.]

Please notify an usher to have Eucharist brought to you.

Music during Communion

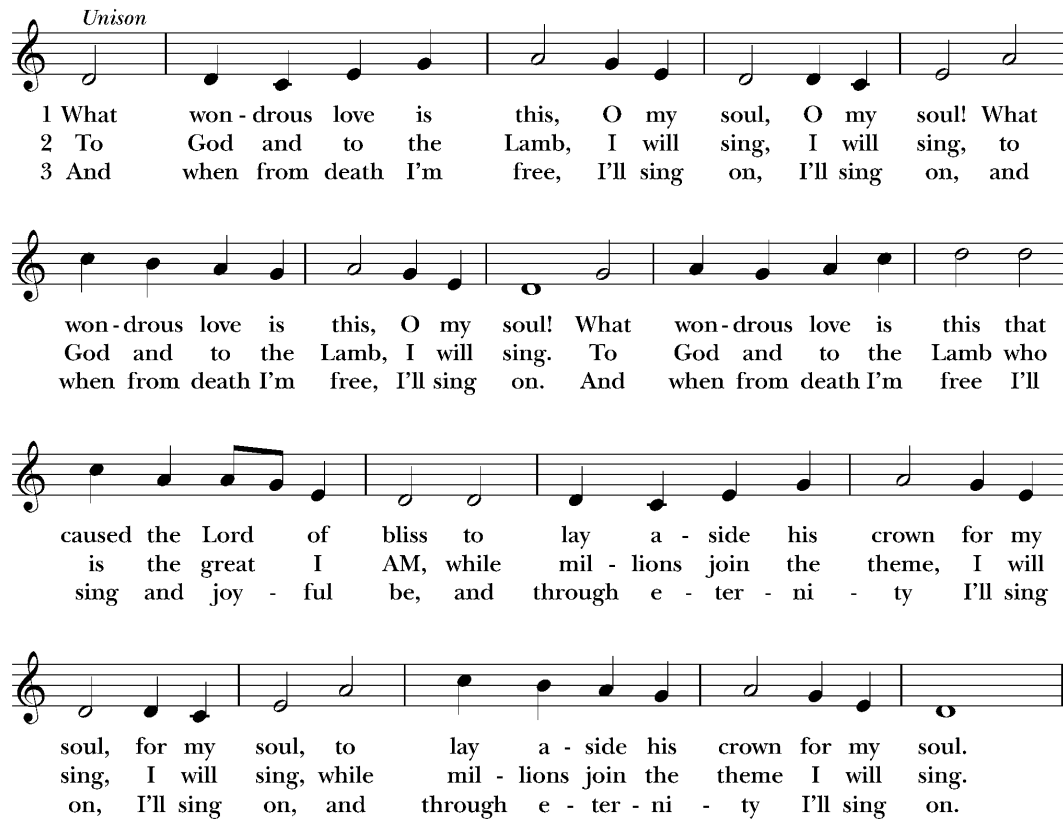
Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505–1585)
Words: Vespers Antiphon, Corpus Christi

O sacrum convivium! in quo Christus sumitur, recolitur memoria passionis eius, mens impletur gratia, et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.

O sacred banquet! in which Christ is received, the memory of His Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory to us is given.

Hymn 439

Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Words: American folk hymn, ca. 1835

Music: *Wondrous Love*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835

The people may stand or kneel

The Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

All sit.

The congregation reads the part of the "Assembly" in bold.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

- Narrator* When the hour for the Passover meal came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,
- Jesus* "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
- Narrator* Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,
- Jesus* "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
- Narrator* Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,
- Jesus* "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
- Narrator* And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,
- Jesus* "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"
- Narrator* Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,
- Jesus* "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."
- Narrator* And he said to him,
- Peter* "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!"
- Narrator* Jesus said,
- Jesus* "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me."
- Narrator* He said to them,
- Jesus* "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?"
- Narrator* They said,
- Disciples* "No, not a thing."
- Narrator* He said to them,
- Jesus* "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."
- Narrator* They said,
- Disciples* "Lord, look, here are two swords."
- Narrator* He replied,
- Jesus* "It is enough."
- Narrator* He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,
- Jesus* "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."
- Narrator* Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,
- Jesus* "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

Narrator Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

Jesus "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Narrator While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

Jesus "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

Narrator When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

Disciples "Lord, should we strike with the sword?"

Narrator Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

Jesus "No more of this!"

Narrator And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

Jesus "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

Narrator Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

Servant 1 "This man also was with him."

Narrator But he denied it, saying,

Peter "Woman, I do not know him."

Narrator A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

Accuser 1 "You also are one of them."

Narrator But Peter said,

Peter "Man, I am not!"

Narrator Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

Accuser 2 "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

Narrator But Peter said,

Peter "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

Narrator At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crow today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

Soldiers "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"

Narrator They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

Assembly **"If you are the Messiah, tell us."**

Narrator He replied,

Jesus "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

Narrator All of them asked,

Assembly **"Are you, then, the Son of God?"**

Narrator He said to them,

Jesus "You say that I am."

Narrator Then they said,

Assembly **"What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"**

Narrator Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

Assembly **“We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”**

Narrator Then Pilate asked him,

Pilate “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Narrator He answered,

Jesus “You say so.”

Narrator Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

Pilate “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.”

Narrator But they were insistent and said,

Assembly **“He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”**

Narrator When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

Pilate “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

Narrator Then they all shouted out together,

Assembly **“Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”**

Narrator (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

Assembly **“Crucify, crucify him!”**

Narrator A third time he said to them,

Pilate “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”

Narrator But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

Jesus “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

(At the mention of the place called the Skull, all should stand, as able.)

Narrator Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

Jesus “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Narrator And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

Assembly **“He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”**

Narrator The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

Soldiers “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

Narrator There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

Criminal 1 “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

Narrator But the other rebuked him, saying,

Criminal 2 “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

Narrator Then he said,

Criminal 2 “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Narrator He replied,

Jesus “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Narrator It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

Narrator Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

Centurion “Certainly this man was innocent.”

Narrator And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Hymn 158

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed, that man 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 thy in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

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

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

Words: Johann Heermann (1585-1647); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

Music: *Herzliebster Jesu*, Johann Crüger (1598-1662), alt.

The people depart in silence.



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