



– John 18:1-19:42

## Good Friday Service

March 29, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

(In-person & Online)

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Arendtsville, Pennsylvania



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Arendtsville, PA

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
**YEAR B**

• March 29, 2024 •

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(Office Hours: Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 3:00-6:00 pm)

\* *Congregation stands, as able*

*(Pastor's parts)* – in light print  
***ALL join in!*** – in bold print

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

*All gather in silence.*

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13–53:12

<sup>52:13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

<sup>14</sup>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—

<sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.

<sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

<sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many  
righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 88**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, my God, my Savior,  
by day and night I cry to you.

<sup>2</sup>**Let my prayer enter into your presence;  
incline your ear to my lamentation.**

<sup>3</sup>For I am full of trouble;  
my life is at the brink of the grave.

<sup>4</sup>**I am counted among those who go down to the pit;  
I have become like one who has no strength;**

<sup>5</sup>lost among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,  
whom you remember no more, for they are cut off  
from your hand.

<sup>6</sup>**You have laid me in the depths of the pit,  
in dark places, and in the abyss.**

<sup>7</sup>Your anger weighs upon me heavily,  
and all your great waves overwhelm me.

<sup>8</sup>**You have put my friends far from me;  
you have made me to be abhorred by them;  
I am in prison and cannot get free.**

<sup>9</sup>My sight has failed me because of trouble;  
LORD, I have called upon you daily;  
I have stretched out my hands to you.

<sup>10</sup>**Do you work wonders for the dead?  
Will those who have died stand up  
and give you thanks?**

<sup>11</sup>Will your lovingkindness be declared in the grave,  
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

<sup>12</sup>**Will your wonders be known in the dark  
or your righteousness in the country  
where all is forgotten?**

<sup>13</sup>But as for me, O LORD, I cry to you for help;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

<sup>14</sup>**LORD, why have you rejected me?  
Why have you hidden your face from me?**

<sup>15</sup>Ever since my youth, I have been wretched  
and at the point of death;  
I have borne your terrors and am helpless.

<sup>16</sup>**Your blazing anger has swept over me;  
your terrors have destroyed me;**

<sup>17</sup>they surround me all day long like a flood;  
they encompass me on every side.

<sup>18</sup>**My friend and my neighbor you have put away  
from me, and darkness is my only companion.**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

<sup>4:14</sup>Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>5:7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

**L: The Word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: John 18:1–19:42**

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **John 18:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.<sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.<sup>3</sup>So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?”<sup>5</sup>They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.<sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground.<sup>7</sup>Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”<sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.”<sup>9</sup>This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.”<sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus.<sup>11</sup>Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

<sup>12</sup>So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.<sup>13</sup>First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.<sup>14</sup>Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.



**‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross’**

ELW # 803

Verse 1: When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

**John 18:15-27**

<sup>15</sup>Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” <sup>18</sup>Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup>Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup>Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are

you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." <sup>26</sup>One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" <sup>27</sup>Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

### Reflection

#### **'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'**

ELW # 803

Verse 2: Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

#### **John 18:28–19:3**

<sup>18:28</sup>Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup>(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

<sup>33</sup>Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me

from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup>Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” <sup>40</sup>They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a bandit.

<sup>19:1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face.

### Reflection

#### **‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross’**

ELW # 803

Verse 3: See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

#### **John 19:4-16a**

<sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

<sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take

him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.”

<sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup>Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” <sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” <sup>15</sup>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 the emperor.” <sup>16a</sup>Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

### Reflection

#### **‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross’**

ELW # 803

Verse 4: Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

## John 19:16b-25a

<sup>16b</sup>So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

<sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." <sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup>So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."

<sup>25a</sup>And that is what the soldiers did.

### Reflection

#### **'Were You There'**

ELW # 353

Verse 1: Were you there  
When they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there  
When they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, .... Sometimes it causes me to  
Tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there  
When they crucified my Lord?

## John 19:25b-30

<sup>25b</sup>Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### Reflection

#### **'Were You There'**

ELW # 353

Verse 2: Were you there  
When they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there  
When they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, .... Sometimes it causes me to  
Tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there  
When they nailed him to the tree?

## John 19:31-42

<sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with

him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

<sup>38</sup>After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### Reflection

#### **'Were You There'**

ELW # 353

Verse 3: Were you there  
When they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there  
When they pierced him in the side?  
Oh, .... Sometimes it causes me to  
Tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there  
When they pierced him in the side?

Verse 4: Were you there  
When the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there  
When the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, .... Sometimes it causes me to  
Tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there  
When the sun refused to shine?

Verse 5: Were you there  
When they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there  
When they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, .... Sometimes it causes me to  
Tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there  
When they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American Spiritual. Music: African American spiritual.

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church  
throughout the world.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.  
By your Holy Spirit guide the church  
and gather it throughout the world.  
Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name,  
and bring the good news of salvation  
in Christ to all people.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



Let us pray for Elizabeth and James, our bishops; for Ben, Dennis, Ryan, Susan, and Heather, our pastors; and for all servants of the church; and for all the people of God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.  
Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors,  
other ministers, and lay leaders.  
Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church,  
and help each of us in our various vocations  
to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church.  
Increase the faith and understanding  
of those preparing for baptism.  
Give them new birth as your children,  
and keep them in the faith and communion  
of your holy church.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith  
in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity.  
Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son.

Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith,  
and keep us united in the fellowship of love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear  
the word of God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham  
and your teaching to Moses.  
Hear our prayers that the people you called  
and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment  
of the covenant's promises.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith  
in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace  
all those who call out to you under different names.  
Bring an end to inter-religious strife,  
and make us more faithful witnesses  
of the love made known to us in your Son.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you give strength to the weary  
and new courage to those who have lost heart.  
Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers,  
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,  
and deliver your world from falsehood,  
hunger, and disease.

Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble,  
that they may have the joy of receiving your help  
in their need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which  
our Lord would have us ask.

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## \* PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

P: Behold, the life-giving cross,  
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

P: Behold, the life-giving cross,  
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

P: Behold, the life-giving cross,  
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

### Reflection

#### **‘What Wondrous Love Is This’**

ELW # 666

*(The congregation is invited to reflect on the cross of Christ.)*

1. 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?
2. When I was sinking down,  
Sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down  
Beneath God’s righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3. 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.
4. 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 God's love for me,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.

*All depart in silence. If not having done so earlier,  
worshippers may reverence the cross before they depart.*

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## **THE MINISTERS OF WORSHIP & SERVICE**

Presiding Minister

The Rev. Ben Siebert

Organist/Pianist

Ellie Vranich

Altar Guild

Sue Kuhn & Audrey Ridinger

Head Usher

Jim Ridinger

Lector

David Tolar

†

## **NOTES ON THE WORSHIP**

**At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy** is the passion narrative, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day – the triumph of the cross – reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ’s life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life.

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## **JOIN US FOR WORSHIP** **EASTER SUNDAY**

*Services at Trinity:*

**Easter Sunrise, 6:30 a.m.** - Meet us at Fairview Cemetery,  
as we celebrate with Zion UCC.

**Festival Service, 9 a.m. (In-person & Online)** - Holy Communion.

## Real Power

In the middle of Jesus' trial, Pilate is afraid. It's the opposite of what one might expect. After all, isn't he the one with the real power in this encounter? Pilate himself seems to think so. At one point in Jesus' trial, Pilate puts it plainly: "Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" By all appearances, he is the most powerful person in the story, but ironically, he is also very afraid.

The ironies of Good Friday extend far beyond the gospel, though. The history of Good Friday is hardly "good" in any usual sense of the word. On this day, one might expect humble prayer and quiet self-examination from those of us who follow Jesus. Yet for centuries, all too often this day has been marked by violence and bloodshed carried out by Christians against Jews. In our history as Christ's church, the power we have wielded over others has too often led to tragedy.

By all appearances, Good Friday is not "good" at all. And yet the good news of the cross is that God regularly shows up where we least expect. As Jesus' disciples, we stake our faith on the claim that the world is healed and redeemed by Christ's death on a cross. This is why the framing of this day as "good" persists—because in spite of all our failures and the harm we've caused, God remains faithful and God's love steadfast.

Real power for followers of Jesus isn't power over others; real power comes as a gift from God shared with others. Real power is known and nurtured in a community of love in which we together learn how to offer ourselves to one another. There's irony in this truth, and also the grace of God.

