



The Way of the Cross

The Three Days: Good Friday

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

April 3, 2026, 7 pm

The leaders enter from the side door. Pastor rings the bell.

Gathering and Prayer of the Day – PR KYLE

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
in whom is forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

Let us pray.

Spirit of God,

draw near to us now.

Prepare our hearts for this journey

we would rather not take.

Give us the courage to walk with Jesus

on the road of suffering and love.

Open our eyes

to see the depth of God's love,

poured out freely for all.



**Open our minds
to seek the wisdom of God,
that we may understand what is asked of us.**

**Open our hearts
to be moved with compassion and mercy,
to love as we have been loved.**

**Open our hands
to reach out in kindness,
to serve in humility,
to act in the name of Christ.**

**Come now, O Holy One,
and bless us with your grace.**

Amen.

Invitation to the Way – [PR KYLE](#)

**With fear and awe, let us walk the way of the cross.
Let us listen well and pray the stories of life and death,
of love's victory over hate and violence.
Let us now make our journey with Christ.**

Opening Hymn Were You There, ELW 353, vs. 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?

First Station

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane – praying, betrayed, arrested



Pilgrim's Song

Intro + two times

We a - dore you, O Je - sus Christ;
for by your cross you re - deemed the world.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**[Jesus] 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,
“Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”**

**Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw,
knelt down, and prayed,
“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me,
yet not my will but yours be done.”**

**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,
“Why are you sleeping?
Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”**

**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,
“Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?”
When those who were around him saw what was coming,
they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?”** ►

**Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest
and cut off his right ear.**

**But Jesus said, “No more of this!”
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,
“Have you come out with swords and clubs
as though I were a rebel?**

**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!”**

**For all who wrestle with difficult choices;
For all who fear what the future holds
and struggle to trust in God;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For all who are abandoned in their time of need;
For all who keep watch and pray in the darkness;
Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**For all who cry out to God, longing for a different path;
For all who surrender their will to God's greater purpose;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

PR KYLE

**God of steadfast love,
your Son struggled between fear and faith,
yet he placed his trust in you.**

**When we are overwhelmed by uncertainty,
when we stand on the brink of hard choices,
when the path of love seems costly,
strengthen us to follow in the way of Jesus.**

**Grant us the courage to pray, the resolve to resist harm,
and the grace to surrender to your will;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Reflection Song

Stay With Me

Intro + three times

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the top staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a dotted quarter note Bb4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F4. The lyrics 'Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and' are aligned under the notes. The bass line in the bottom staff consists of a series of chords: G2-Bb2, A2-Bb2, Bb2-C3, C3-Bb2, Bb2-A2, A2-G2, and a final chord of G2-Bb2-F2.

pray. Watch and pray.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves. The top staff continues the melody from the first system, starting with a half note F4, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note A4. The lyrics 'pray. Watch and pray.' are aligned under the notes. The bottom staff continues the bass line with chords: G2-Bb2, A2-Bb2, Bb2-C3, C3-Bb2, Bb2-A2, and a final chord of G2-Bb2-F2.

Second Station

Jesus is denied by Peter



Pilgrim's Song

one time

We a - dore you, O Je - sus Christ;
for by your cross you re - deemed the world.

**Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard.
A female servant came to him and said,
“You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”
But he denied it before all of them, saying,
“I do not know what you are talking about.”**

**When he went out to the porch,
another female servant saw him,
and she said to the bystanders,
“This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.”
Again he denied it with an oath,
“I do not know the man.”**

**After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,
“Certainly you are also one of them,
for your accent betrays you.”
Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,
“I do not know the man!”**

**At that moment the cock crowed.
Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:
“Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”
And he went out and wept bitterly.**

**For all who feel ashamed of their failures;
For all who have denied or turned away
from what or whom they love;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For all who have been judged by their worst moments;
For all who hesitate to stand with the vulnerable;
Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**For all who long for another chance to do what is right;
For all who seek reconciliation and healing;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

PR JULIE

**God of second chances,
when fear overtook Peter, he denied knowing Jesus.
Yet even in his failure, your love did not waver.
When we falter,
remind us that our worst moments do not define us.
Restore us in your mercy, strengthen us in faith,
and help us to trust that nothing
—neither fear nor failure—
can separate us from your love;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Reflection Song

Nothing in All Creation

Intro + 2 times



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

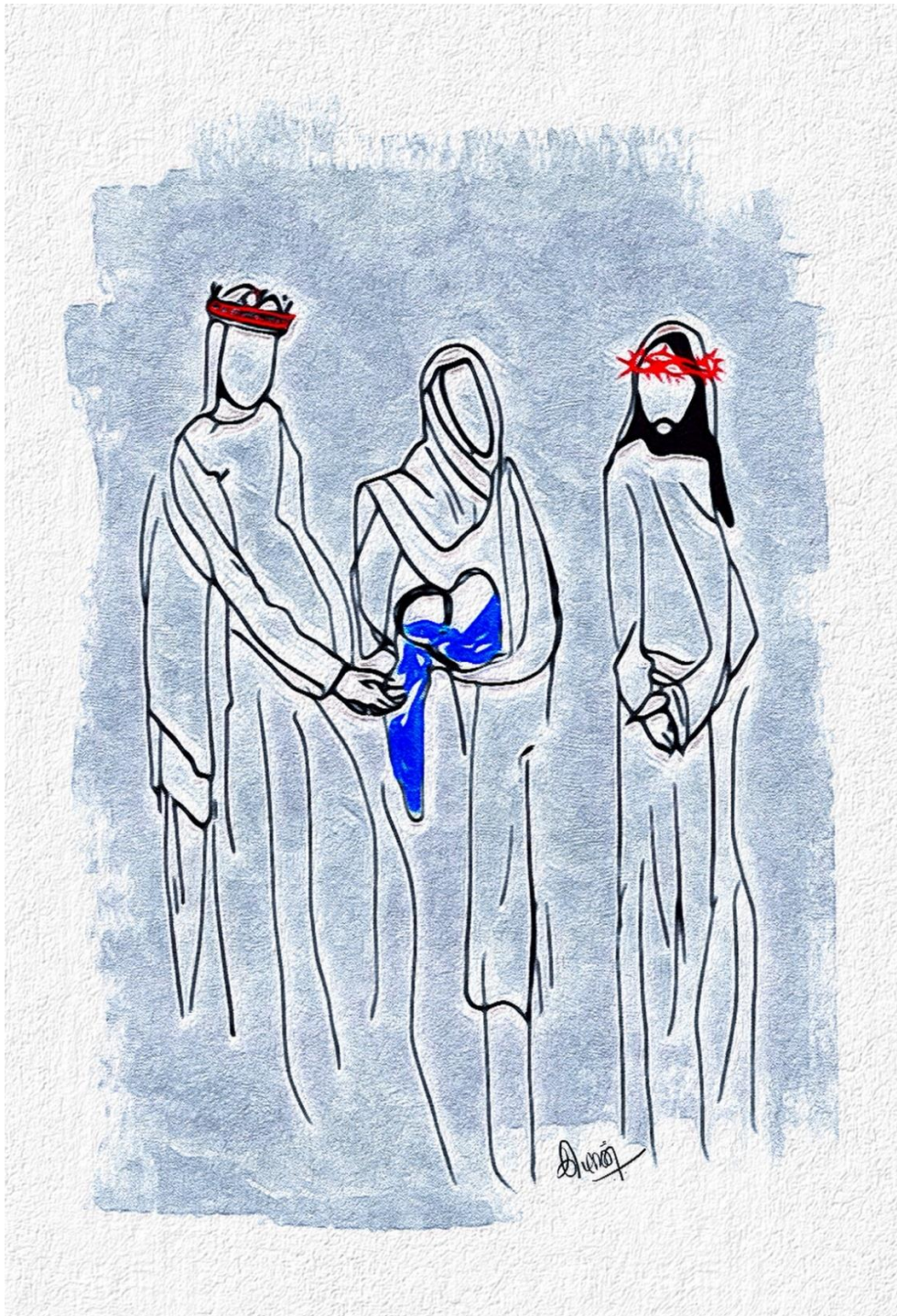
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Third Station

Jesus is judged by Pontius Pilate, flogged, and crowned with thorns



Pilgrim's Song

We adore you, O Jesus Christ; for by your cross you redeemed the world.

**As soon as it was morning,
the chief priests held a consultation
with the elders and scribes and the whole council.**

**They bound Jesus, led him away,
and handed him over to Pilate.**

Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

He answered him, “You say so.”

Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

Pilate asked him again,

“Have you no answer?

See how many charges they bring against you.”

But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

**Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them,
anyone for whom they asked.**

Now a man called Barabbas was in prison

with the insurrectionists

who had committed murder during the insurrection.

So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate

to do for them according to his custom.

Then he answered them,

“Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

For he realized that it was out of jealousy

that the chief priests had handed him over.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd

to have him release Barabbas for them instead.



**Pilate spoke to them again,
“Then what do you wish me to do with the man
you call the King of the Jews?”
They shouted back, “Crucify him!”**

**Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?”
But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!”
So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd,
released Barabbas for them,
and after flogging Jesus
he handed him over to be crucified.**

**Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace
(that is, the governor’s headquarters),
and they called together the whole cohort.
And they clothed him in a purple cloak,
and after twisting some thorns into a crown
they put it on him.
And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!”
They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him,
and knelt down in homage to him.**

**For all who are condemned
because of fear, jealousy, or corruption;
For all who stand before systems of power without a voice;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For all who remain silent when truth is at stake;
For all who are punished for challenging authority;
Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**For all who seek the courage to do what is right;
For all who long for leaders who rule
with wisdom and compassion;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

PR KYLE

**God of truth,
your Son stood silent before his accusers,
refusing to return violence for violence.
When power is misused, when cruelty reigns,
and when justice is denied,
strengthen us to stand with the suffering
and resist the temptation to remain silent.
Clothe us in your mercy, crown us with your wisdom,
and lead us in the way of peace;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Reflection Song

Forgive Your People

Intro + 2 times

Refrain / Estribillo



Per - do - na_a tu pue - blo, Se - ñor. Per -
For - give your . . . peo - ple, O Lord. For -



do - na_a tu pue - blo, per - dó - na - le, Se - ñor.
give your . . . peo - ple, for - give . . . us, O Lord.

Fourth Station

Jesus bears the cross with help from Simon of Cyrene



Pilgrim's Song

We adore you, O Jesus Christ; for by your cross you redeemed the world.

**After mocking him,
they stripped him of the purple cloak
and put his own clothes on him.
Then they led him out to crucify him.**

**They 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.**

**For all who struggle with heavy burdens – seen and unseen;
For all who bear the weight of oppression
because of the color of their skin;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For all who labor without recognition or rest;
For all who show kindness to strangers
and stand in solidarity with the suffering;
Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**For all who lift the weight of another's pain;
For all who trust that no burden is carried alone;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

PR JULIE

**God of the weary your son bore the weight of the cross,
yet even he was not left to carry it alone.
Too often, we demand the labor of others
while ignoring their struggles.
Open our hearts to stand with those who suffer injustice.
Give us the humility to learn, the courage to act,
and the grace to bear one another's burdens in love;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Reflection Song

Ubi Caritas, ELW 642

Intro + 3 times

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in G major (one flat) and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The second system continues the vocal line with a triplet on the word 'i' and the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Fifth Station

Jesus is crucified



Pilgrim's Song

We adore you, O Jesus Christ; for by your cross you redeemed the world.

**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, “Father, forgive them,
for they do not know what they are doing.”
And they cast lots to divide his clothing.
And the people stood by watching,
but the leaders scoffed at him,
saying, “He saved others;
let him save himself
if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”**

**The soldiers also mocked him,
coming up and offering him sour wine and saying,
“If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”**

**There was also an inscription over him,
“This is the King of the Jews.”**

**For all who suffer humiliation, abuse, and public shame;
For all who are tortured, imprisoned,
or stripped of their dignity;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For all who use power to mock or harm others;
For all who witness cruelty and wrestle with how to respond;
Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**For all who long to forgive but struggle to let go of pain;
For all who trust that love is stronger than death;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

PR KYLE

**God of boundless mercy, even from the cross,
your Son spoke words of forgiveness.**

**In a world that wounds and rejects,
teach us to love as he loved.**

When we are harmed, give us grace to forgive.

**When we are complicit in the suffering of others,
open our hearts to repentance.**

And when all seems lost,

**fill us with the hope that love will have the final word;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Reflection Song

Forgive Your People

Intro + 2 times

Refrain / Estribillo



Per - do - na_a tu pue - blo, Se - ñor. Per -
For - give your . . . peo - ple, O Lord. For -



do - na_a tu pue - blo, per - dó - na - le, Se - ñor.
give your . . . peo - ple, for - give . . . us, O Lord.

Sixth Station

Jesus promises his kingdom to the thief



Pilgrim's Song

We adore you, O Jesus Christ; for by your cross you redeemed the world.

**One of the criminals who were hanged there
kept deriding him and saying,
“Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”**

**But the other rebuked him, saying,
“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.”**

**Then he said,
“Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”
[Jesus] replied,
“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

**For all who believe they are beyond redemption
and fear they are lost;**

**For all who turn to Christ with even
the smallest hope of grace;**

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**For all who are condemned by the world,
judged by their past,
or labeled as unworthy;**

**For all who are denied a second chance,
locked away, or cast aside;**

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For all who long for paradise in the midst of suffering;

For all who trust that Jesus meets us exactly where we are;

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

PR JULIE

God of mercy in his final moments

your Son welcomed a dying thief into your kingdom.

No one is beyond your grace,

no past is too broken for your redemption.

Teach us to trust in your mercy, to extend it freely to others,

and to believe that even in our darkest moments,

your love is near;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Reflection Song

Jesus, Remember Me

Intro + 2 times

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 7/8 time signature. It contains four measures of music: the first measure has a whole note chord (F2, B-flat1), the second has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter rest, the third has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1), and the fourth has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains four measures: the first has a whole note chord (F2, B-flat1), the second has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter rest, the third has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1), and the fourth has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1).

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 7/8 time signature. It contains four measures of music: the first measure has a whole note chord (F2, B-flat1), the second has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter rest, the third has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1), and the fourth has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains four measures: the first has a whole note chord (F2, B-flat1), the second has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter rest, the third has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1), and the fourth has a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1) followed by a quarter note chord (F2, B-flat1).

Seventh Station

Jesus speaks to his mother and the beloved disciple



Pilgrim's Song

We adore you, O Jesus Christ; for by your cross you redeemed the world.

**Meanwhile,
standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother,
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary Magdalene.**

**When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved
standing beside her, he said to his mother,
“Woman, here is your son.”
Then he said to the disciple,
“Here is your mother.”
And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.**

Intercessions - JODI SLATTERY

**For all who grieve the loss of those they love;
For all who long to comfort but do not know how;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For all who create family beyond blood ties;
For all who offer shelter, belonging,
and love to those in need;
Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**For all who find unexpected relationships that sustain them;
For all who carry love and loss in equal measure;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

PR KYLE

**God of compassion even in his dying moments
your Son created a new family bound together in love.
Teach us to see one another as kin,
to care for those entrusted to us,
and to welcome the lonely and grieving into our embrace.
May our love reflect the love of Christ,
which knows no bounds;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Reflection Song

Jesus, Remember Me

Intro + 2 times

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 7/8 time signature. It contains four measures of music: the first measure has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note chord; the second measure has a quarter note chord followed by a quarter rest; the third measure has a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, and a quarter note chord; the fourth measure has a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, and a quarter rest. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains four measures of music: the first measure has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note chord; the second measure has a quarter note chord followed by a quarter rest; the third measure has a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, and a quarter note chord; the fourth measure has a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, and a quarter rest.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 7/8 time signature. It contains four measures of music: the first measure has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note chord; the second measure has a quarter note chord followed by a quarter rest; the third measure has a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, and a quarter note chord; the fourth measure has a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, and a quarter rest. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains four measures of music: the first measure has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note chord; the second measure has a quarter note chord followed by a quarter rest; the third measure has a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, and a quarter note chord; the fourth measure has a quarter note chord, a quarter note chord, and a quarter rest.

Eighth Station

Jesus dies on the cross



Pilgrim's Song

We adore you, O Jesus Christ; for by your cross you redeemed the world.

**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 out with a loud voice, said,
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”**

Having said this, he breathed his last.

Intercessions - JODI SLATTERY

**For all who face death and long for assurance;
For all who surrender their lives into God's hands;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For all whose lives are cut short;
For all who die alone, without comfort or care;
Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**For all who place their hope in God even in the face of death;
For all who wait in hope for the dawn of new life;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

PR JULIE

**God of our last breath and our first,
your Son commended his spirit into your hands,
trusting in your love even in death.
Hold us in that same love when fear overtakes us,
when grief weighs us down,
and when we stand at the threshold of the unknown.
May we live and die in the certainty that nothing—
not even death—can separate us from your love;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Bell is rung as we enter a time of silence for reflection, as well as concludes.

Ninth Station

Jesus is placed in the tomb



Pilgrim's Song

We adore you, O Jesus Christ; for by your cross you redeemed the world.

**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.**

**Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night,
also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes,
weighing about a hundred pounds.**

**They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in
linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.
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.
And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation
and the tomb was nearby,
they laid Jesus there.**

**For all who mourn without answers,
who sit in the silence of grief;
For all who tend to the dead with love and reverence;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For all who take risks to care for others,
even when fear tempts them to hide;
For all who find the strength to do what love requires;
Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**For all who bury their dreams and
wonder if new life will come;
For all who hold on to the promise
that the story is not yet over;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

PR KYLE

**God of endings and beginnings, in the silence of the tomb,
hope seemed lost. Yet even in darkness, you were at work.
When grief weighs heavy, when fear keeps us quiet,
when it feels like death has won,
remind us that you are not finished yet.
Help us to wait with trust, to act with love,
and to believe in the promise of resurrection;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Closing Hymn Were You There, ELW 353, vs. 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?

Closing Prayer - PR KYLE

Silence for reflection. The cross is processed in, stopping in the back third.

**Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.**
Oh, come, let us worship him.

The cross is carried to the center of the aisle.

**Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.**
Oh, come, let us worship him.

The cross is carried to the head of the aisle, and placed on the ground.

**Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.**
Oh, come, let us worship him.

**We give thanks, loving God, that you have delivered us from
the power of sin and death and brought us into the life of
your Son. Just as he gave himself for us, lift us up by his love
and lead us into the joy of your eternal kingdom, for he lives
and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and
forever.**

Amen.

You are invited to the cross: to pray and meditate on Jesus Christ, our Savior.

You may also remain seated, or quietly depart in peace.

There is no blessing, dismissal, or postlude to close the service this day. The service continues tomorrow with the Easter Vigil.