

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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"We come together at St. Mark's to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world."

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor

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Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

*District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Friday, April 7, 2023

***Good Friday
Order of Service***

Sister Cynthia Whitfield, Worship Leader

PreludeRev. Henry Tindel

Lighting of the Candles

Greeting/Call to WorshipSister Cynthia Whitfield

Leader: Who has believed what we have heard?

People: **And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**

Leader: Jesus was an object of scorn and suffering, despised and rejected by others.

People: **He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, yet by his bruises we are healed.**

Leader: We like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way.

People: **And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

Leader: Out of his anguish we shall see light. People of God, on this dark night, let us walk in the light.

Hymn of PraiseSt. Mark's Choir/Congregation

"Were You There"

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?

- 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 crucified my Lord?
- 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 crucified my Lord?
- 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 they crucified my Lord?
- 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 crucified my Lord?

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

People: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? why are you so far from me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. All who see me mock me. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Save me! I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters. In the middle of the congregation, I will praise you.

Leader: **Hear the good news, all who suffer: Since Christ has offered a perfect sacrifice for sins, once and for all time, let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, and let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, encouraging one another as our feast of deliverance approaches. Amen.**

Opening PrayerSister Cynthia Whitfield
Song of Meditation

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

On this sorrowful day, O Lord, grant us your healing that we might know in our suffering we are not alone. Teach us your paths, guide us in your truth, for you are acquainted with sufferings as it will be revealed to us in the hearing and ingesting of your Holy Word today. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1

(*Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Common English Bible*)

Suffering servant

¹³ Look, my servant will succeed. He will be exalted and lifted very high. ¹⁴ Just as many were appalled by you, he too appeared disfigured, inhuman, his appearance unlike that of mortals. ¹⁵ But he will astonish many nations. Kings will be silenced because of him, because they will see what they haven't seen before; what they haven't heard before, they will ponder.

53 Who can believe what we have heard, and for whose sake has the Lord's arm been revealed? ² He grew up like a young plant before us, like a root from dry ground. He possessed no splendid form for us to see, no desirable appearance. ³ He was despised and avoided by others; a man who suffered, who knew sickness well. Like someone from whom people hid their faces, he was despised, and we didn't think about him.

⁴ It was certainly our sickness that he carried, and our sufferings that he bore, but we thought him afflicted, struck down by God and tormented. ⁵ He was pierced because of our rebellions and crushed because of our crimes. He bore the punishment that made us whole; by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ Like sheep we had all wandered away, each going its own way, but the Lord let fall on him all our crimes.

⁷ He was oppressed and tormented, but didn't open his mouth. Like a lamb being brought to slaughter, like a ewe silent before her shearers, he didn't open his mouth.

⁸ Due to an unjust ruling he was taken away, and his fate—who will think about it? He was eliminated from the land of the living, struck dead because of my people's rebellion. ⁹ His grave was

among the wicked, his tomb with evildoers, though he had done no violence, and had spoken nothing false.

¹⁰ But the Lord wanted to crush him and to make him suffer. If his life is offered as restitution, he will see his offspring; he will enjoy long life. The Lord's plans will come to fruition through him.

¹¹ After his deep anguish he will see light, and he will be satisfied. Through his knowledge, the righteous one, my servant, will make many righteous, and will bear their guilt. ¹² Therefore, I will give him a share with the great, and he will divide the spoil with the strong, in return for exposing his life to death and being numbered with rebels, though he carried the sin of many and pleaded on behalf of those who rebelled.

Scripture Reading #2

(Hebrews 10:16–25, Common English Bible)

¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them. After these days, says the Lord, I will place my laws in their hearts and write them on their minds. ¹⁷ And I won't remember their sins and their lawless behavior anymore.

¹⁸ When there is forgiveness for these things, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Second summary of the message

¹⁹ Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, ²⁰ through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, ²¹ and we have a great high priest over God's house.

²² Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water.

²³ Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable.

²⁴ And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. ²⁵ Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

Hymn of Preparation St. Mark's Choir

Scripture Reading #3

(John 19:16–42, Common English Bible)

¹⁶ Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Crucifixion

The soldiers took Jesus prisoner. ¹⁷ Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, *Golgotha*).

¹⁸ That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹ Pilate had a public notice written and posted on the cross. It read “Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews.” ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. ²¹ Therefore, the Jewish chief priests complained to Pilate, “Don't write, ‘The king of the Jews’ but ‘This man said, ‘I am the king of the Jews.’””

²² Pilate answered, “What I've written, I've written.”

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and his sandals, and divided them into four shares, one for each soldier. His shirt was seamless, woven as one piece from the top to the bottom. ²⁴ They said to each other, “Let's not tear it. Let's cast lots to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill the scripture,

They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. That's what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

²⁸ After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. ³⁰ When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, “It is completed.” Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

Witness at the cross

³¹ It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down.

³² Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus. ³³ When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they didn't break his legs.

³⁴ However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ The one who saw this has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he speaks the truth, and he has testified so that you also can believe. ³⁶ These things happened to fulfill the scripture, *They won't break any of his bones.* ³⁷ And another scripture says, *They will look at him whom they have pierced.*

Jesus' body is buried

³⁸ After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away. ³⁹ Nicodemus, the one who at first had come to Jesus at night, was there too. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, nearly seventy-five pounds in all. ⁴⁰ Following Jewish burial customs, they took Jesus' body and wrapped it, with the spices, in linen cloths. ⁴¹ There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it.

Hymn of Preparation..... St. Mark's Choir

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

"It Is Really That Bad"

The soldiers took Jesus prisoner. ¹⁷ Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, Golgotha). ¹⁸ That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Closing Selection

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

(1 verse only)

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.

Benediction