

Good Friday Service of Passion Readings and Music

April 3, 2026

Prelude *Prelude on the Hymn Tune 'Rhosymedre'* R Vaughn Williams

The people stand as able while the ministers and choir enter in silence.

Opening Devotions

Officiant In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Lord, have mercy upon us.

People **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Officiant Lord, have mercy upon us.

Officiant 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.

Officiant We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

People **In whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, Lamb of God, Lord of Lords, call us, who are called to be saints, along the way of thy Cross: draw us, who would draw nearer to our King, to the foot of thy Cross: cleanse us, who are not worthy to approach, with the pardon of thy Cross: instruct us, the ignorant and blind, in the school of thy Cross: arm us, for the battles of holiness, by the might of thy Cross: bring us, in the fellowship of thy sufferings to the victory of thy Cross: and seal us in the kingdom of thy glory among the servants of thy Cross, O crucified Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest one God almighty, eternal, world without end.

People **Amen.**

Invitatory Into the Woods My Master Went R Shephard

Into the woods my Master went, Clean forspent, forspent,

Into the woods my Master came, Forspent with love and shame.

But the olives they were not blind to Him. The little gray leaves were kind to Him,

The thorn tree had a mind to Him, When into the woods He came.

*Out of the woods my Master came And he was well content;
Out of the woods my Master came, Content with death and shame.
When death and shame would woo Him last, From under the trees they drew Him last,
'Twas on a tree they slew Him—last When out of the woods He came.*

Meditation I

Isaiah 52:13–53:6

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. 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 – 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. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 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. 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. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 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. 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.

Please join the choir in singing the hymn responses.

Response I Hymn 439 What Wondrous Love Is This

Officiant Surely he has borne our griefs:

People **And carried our sorrows.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O Lord God, who hast brought all the great promises of the Gospel to us through the sorrows and death of thy dear Son Jesus Christ: Grant us, whensoever thou ask it, to suffer in so good a manner and for so good a cause as may be worthy of union with his most holy sufferings; that we may tread with the King the way to the kingdom; where he reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever one God, world without end.

People **Amen.**

Meditation II

Isaiah 53:7–12

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. 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. 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.

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. 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. 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.

Response II Drop, Drop Slow Tears

1. Drop, drop slow tears and bathe those beautiful feet
 2. Cease not, wet eyes, His mercies to entertain.
 3. In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears

1. Which brought from heav'n the news and Prince of Peace.
 2. To cry for vengeance Sin doth never cease.
 3. Nor let His eye see sin but through my tears.

Officiant The Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all:
People **For the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

Officiant Let us pray.
 O Christ, the King of kings, whose sinless and venerable head we crowned with thorns:
 Grant us with thee to seek no diadem other than that which crowneth victory over sin;
 who livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God, world without end.

People **Amen.**

Meditation III

John 12:31-36a

Jesus said, "Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the

kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

Response III Hymn 465 Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart

Officiant And I, if I be lifted up:
People **Will draw all things unto myself.**

Officiant Let us pray.
Almighty God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself: mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

Meditation IV

Matthew 21:1-9

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Response IV Hymn 480 When Jesus Left His Father's Throne

Officiant Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord:
People **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Officiant Let us pray.
Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Meditation V

John 18:33-19:11

Then Pilate again entered the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" 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?" 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." 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." 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. 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?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. 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." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" 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." 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." Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 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?" 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."

Response V **Hymn 158** Ah Holy Jesus (verses 1, 3, & 5)

Officiant Be imitators of God, and walk in love:

People **As Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who in thy forgiving love didst pray for those who nailed thee to the cross, and hast taught us to forgive one another as we have been forgiven; take from us all bitterness and resentment towards our fellows, and give us the spirit of mutual forgiveness and brotherly love; that so, in perfect charity, we may be partakers of thy everlasting kingdom; for thy mercy's sake.

People **Amen.**

Meditation VI

Luke 23:33-43

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.” 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 into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Response VI Hymn 474 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Officiant For as in Adam all die:

People **Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O Christ, Redeemer and Lord, who by thy death didst bequeath to us so great a legacy as to inherit life: So charge, we pray thee, our mortality with thine immortal Spirit, that led by grace in the way we lose not glory in the end; where with the Father and the same Spirit thou livest and reignest, God for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Meditation VII

Philippians 2:5-11

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.

Response VII Hymn 458 My Song Is Love Unknown

Officiant Christ did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped;

People **But emptied himself, being born in the likeness of mortals.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High God, who didst empty thyself and give thy whole life to us, even unto death, the death of the Cross; grant us to receive so immeasurable a gift with penitence, with gratefulness, and with joy, so that we hold

nothing of ourselves from others and from thee, who livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Final Response **Hymn 164** Alone Thou Goest Forth, O Lord

Concluding Prayers

All stand as able.

Officiant We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.

People **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Officiant O Saviour of the world, by thy cross and precious blood thou hast redeemed us:

People **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray thee to set thy Passion, Cross and death between thy judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Vouchsafe to the living mercy and grace, to the dead pardon and rest, to thy holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest world without end.

People **Amen.**

Officiant May the glorious Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ bring us to the joys of Paradise.

People **Amen.**

The ministers, choir, and people depart in silence