

✠ **Opening Prayer** ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responsive Reading

Mark 14:26-31

P And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

C Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be."

P Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

C But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise.

Psalmody: WS p. 28

"Have Mercy Upon Me, O God"

Confession & Absolution of Sins

P Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. Our hearts are heavy as we gather in the name of Christ, bearing witness to the terror of His crucifixion, knowing full well that we are guilty sinners, in need of Your forgiveness, life, and salvation.

C Christ our Savior has died for our sins.

P At times, we have failed to strive against evil in the world.

C Christ our Savior has died for our sins.

P At times, we have denied our Lord.

C Christ our Savior has died for our sins.

P At times, we have betrayed our Lord.

C Christ our Savior has died for our sins. Be merciful, O Lord, and grant us forgiveness. Amen.

P Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of our crucified Savior Jesus Christ, announce his grace and mercy to You. In His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

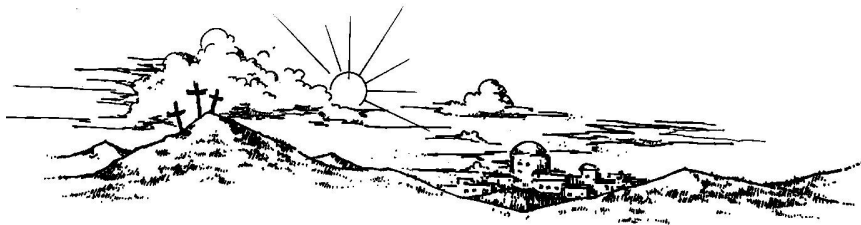
Please join us on Sunday as we rejoice to see that the tomb is empty and that Christ is risen indeed!

Easter Schedule:

Breakfast – 8:00 am

Worship – 9:30 am

Easter Flowers – Anyone is welcome to bring Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Sunday's resurrection celebration!



I t i s f i n i s h e d .

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Hymn: TLH #172:1-4

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”



Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Jesus – The One who Died To Bring Us Peace

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: WS #723

“What Wondrous Love is This”

✠ **The Service of Darkness** ✠

I. The Gospel: Mark 14:32-42

Gethsemane

Extinguishing of the first candle.

Hymn: TLH #159

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

II. The Gospel: Mark 14:43-52

Betrayal and Arrest

- P** And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.
- G** **Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.”**
- P** As soon as he had come, immediately He went up to Him and said to Him, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him.
- G** **And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.**
- P** Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

C Then they all forsook Him and fled. Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

III. The Gospel: Mark 14:53-65 *The Sanhedrin Trial*

Extinguishing of the second candle.

Hymn: TLH #143:1-2, 4-5 "O Dearest Jesus"

IV. The Gospel: Mark 14:66-72 *The Courtyard*

Extinguishing of the third candle.

Hymn: TLH #175 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

V. The Gospel: Mark 15:1-15 *The Roman Trial*

P Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate.

C Then Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

P He answered and said to him, "It is as you say." And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing.

C Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!"

P But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.

C Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested.

P And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them.

C But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

P So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!"

C Then Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?"

P But they cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!"

C So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified.

VI. The Gospel: Mark 15:16-20 *The Mocking of the Soldiers*

Extinguishing of the fourth candle.

Hymn: WS #722 "Deep Were His Wounds"

VII. The Gospel: Mark 15:21-32 *The Crucifixion*

Extinguishing of the fifth candle.

Choir "Is This the Savior?"

VIII. The Gospel: Mark 15:33-41 *Christ's Death*

Extinguishing of the sixth candle.

Duet "Lamb of God"

IX. The Gospel: Mark 15:42-47 *Jesus' Burial*

Extinguishing of the seventh candle.

The Benediction

P Go now into the darkness of evening. Though we walk in darkness, we are not forsaken. We are led by the hand of God. May the love of the Father calm your fears. May the grace of the Lord Jesus keep you through the night. May the presence of the Holy Spirit sustain you throughout life. The Lord be with you. Amen.

✠ The Lord's Prayer ✠

✠ The Sealing of the Tomb ✠

Solo "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

✠ The Tolling of the Bell ✠

The congregation is asked to leave the service quietly.