

Holy Week

Introduction to the alternate Holy Week prayers, with readings from the Gospel of John

The Gospel of John preserves a distinctive record of Jesus' life and passion. Two aspects stand out. The first is that we are let in on the intimacy between the Son and the Father and between the Son and those he calls friends. The writer of John's Gospel draws attention to Jesus' urgency about sharing with the disciples the heart of the matter: love. In taking on our flesh, Jesus embodied the love that had always been there between the Father and Son and was now brought to earth in full measure. Jesus' washing of his friends' feet shocks them in its reversal of roles. This love, Jesus assures them in his farewell discourses, will remain with them in the form of the Holy Spirit, who will dwell in them even as Jesus goes to his death.

A second aspect of John's passion narrative that stands out is Jesus' claim that, despite all appearances, his crucifixion is not the defeat of the kingdom he has brought; it is its victory. The same reversal seen in Jesus' washing of their feet is at work through the entire narrative, culminating in his death on the cross.

The first reading in every service is a passage from John's Gospel. It carries the narrative of events as well as Jesus' self-disclosure ("I am the way, and the truth, and the life"), his one commandment ("Love one another as I have loved you") and his promise ("The Holy Spirit . . . will teach you everything").

The intent for the psalm selections is that we pray them with Jesus. We do, literally: our psalter is the prayer book Jesus used. In his utter vulnerability to events that trap him and lead to his death, Jesus voices the psalm writers' unashamed pleas to God to intervene, even as he shares their trust that God will not abandon him.

Most mornings, the second reading is a passage from Isaiah's servant songs. These passages speak of the divine claim on the servant to be an agent of God's intentions. For Christians, there is ultimately but one Servant who fulfills God's purposes to the end. In the evening services, the second reading laments what is coming to pass.

Two dissonant notes in the Johannine narrative of the passion merit attention here. One is the Gospel writer's pejorative use of the term "the Jews," a usage that has been deployed to justify

Christian persecution of Jews as a people. Especially since the Holocaust, many Christians in the West find this usage deeply troubling, and it warrants some reconsideration.

By the time the Gospel of John reached its present form, there was a painful division among Jews toward Jesus and among Christians toward Jews. When John, a Jew, refers to “the Jews,” he is writing about his kinfolk, those who could not accept Jesus as the Anointed One as well as those who believed that Gentiles coming to faith in Jesus needed to conform to Jewish ritual law. The disputes mirrored in the Fourth Gospel are so harsh partly because they were engaged in by co-religionists. Painful though such accusations are, there is a difference between siblings deploring each other’s positions and outsiders condemning a people.

There were both Gentiles and Jews in Jerusalem who condemned Jesus. Many Jews at that time were unaware of the conflict between Rabbinic and Messianic Jews that was going on in Jerusalem. Most Jews then and since then have not condemned Christians. Rather, it is Christians who have joined in condemning all Jews, forgetting that it is through the Jewish people that salvation has come to us Gentile believers (see Romans 9–11). May our praying during this holiest of weeks include petitions for reconciliation between Jews and Christians, and prayers repenting of Christian antisemitism.

For some people, a second dissonant note in John’s Gospel is the predominant use of Father-Son language. On one hand, this form of address was important to Jesus and to his earliest witnesses in describing the closeness of the bond between Father and Son, so much so that it became the lynchpin of Christian belief in God as Trinity. On the other hand, some survivors of abuse cannot hear the name of Father without pain. Their witness serves as a reminder that other important biblical images for God deserve a place in our treasury of God language.

Glory ...

*Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.*¹

Praise God ...

*Praise God, the Abba bearing love;
Praise God, the Servant from above;
Praise God, the Paraclete we share:
O triune God, receive our prayer.*²

Glory to you ...

*Glory to you, Source of all Being,
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Sung doxologies³

Praise God, the Source of life (H95)
Praise God from whom (DEDICATION ANTHEM) (H118)
Praise God from whom (OLD HUNDREDTH) (H119)
To God, with the Lamb (H125)

¹ This translation of the Gloria Patri was prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC), 1988.

² Gail Ramshaw-Schmidt, "Naming the Trinity: Orthodoxy and Inclusivity," *Worship* 60, no. 6 (November 1986): 497–98.

³ Numbers refer to *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (Scottsdale, PA: Mennonite Publishing House, 1992).

John 15.9-17 (NRSV)

As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you;
abide in my love.

*If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love,*
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in his love.

*I have said these things to you
so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.*

This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

*No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

The Father has loved me

HOLY WEEK SUNDAY MORNING

Opening sentence

As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you;
abide in my love.

Call to praise

Your love, O God, is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
*So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Glory ...

Psalm 36.6-10 [5-9]

Your love, LORD, reaches to heaven,
your truth to the skies.
*Your justice is like God's mountain,
your judgments like the deep.*

To mortals and beasts you give protection.
O LORD, how precious is your love.
*My God, the children of the earth
find refuge in the shelter of your wings.*

They feast on the riches of your house;
they drink from the stream of your delight.
*In you is the source of life
and in your light we see light.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
Near restful waters you lead me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

*You guide me along the right path;
you are true to your name. Amen.*

Song

Creating God, your fingers trace (H168, H325)

Let all creation bless the Lord (H61)

From all that dwell below the skies (H 49, vv. 1-3)

Call to discipleship

Walk while you have the light,
so that the darkness may not overtake you.
Believe in the light,
so that you may become children of light.

John 12.1-11

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

Isaiah 42.1-4

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

I'll praise my Maker (H166)
Christ, who is in the form of God (H333)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Anything you ask in my name,
the Father will give to you.

*Ask and you will receive,
so that your joy may be complete.*

God of love, we stretch out our hands to you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In the shelter of your wings we find refuge. We pray for our-
selves and those dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

To mortals and beasts you give protection. We pray for our
community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In you is the source of life. We pray for the church in all places,
that we may be one.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Your servant will faithfully bring forth justice. We pray for the
world, that your reign may come and your will be done on
earth.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Passionate and compassionate God,
you don't hide from us the truth
that dying comes before resurrection.
Hold us close

so we dare to risk releasing our grip on self-preservation.

With the one who lived and died open and undefended,
we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Amen.

I have loved you

HOLY WEEK SUNDAY EVENING

Opening sentence

As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you;
abide in my love.

Call to praise

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
*My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

Glory ...

Psalm 118.19-29

Open to me the gates of holiness:
I will enter and give thanks.
*This is the LORD's own gate
where the just may enter.*
I will thank you for you have answered
and you are my savior.

*The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.*

This is the work of the LORD,
a marvel in our eyes.
*This day was made by the LORD;
we rejoice and are glad.*

O LORD, grant us salvation;
O LORD, grant success.
*Blessed in the name of the LORD
is he who comes.*

We bless you from the house of the LORD;
the LORD God is our light.

*Go forward in procession with branches
even to the altar.*

You are my God, I thank you.

My God, I praise you.

*Give thanks to the LORD who is good;
for God's love endures for ever.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

(free prayers of thanksgiving)

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

*You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give comfort. Amen.*

Song

Open now thy gates of beauty (H19)

Christ is our cornerstone (H43)

Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

(silence)

See if there is any hurtful way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

Call to discipleship

Jesus said, I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in the darkness.

I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 12.12-15

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival
heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branch-
es of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:
"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Zechariah 9.9-10

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Ride on, ride on in majesty (H239)
All glory, laud, and honor (H237)
Hosanna, loud hosanna (H238)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.

Trustworthy God, our hope is in you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In the shelter of your wings we find refuge. We pray for our-
selves and those dear to us.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

To mortals and beasts you give protection. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

In you is the source of life. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be one.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Your servant will faithfully bring forth justice. We pray for the world, that your reign may come and your will be done on earth.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of hope,

you promise that death does not have the last word.

Stay with us in our fear and sorrow,

letting your patient ferment do its work in us,

raising us to a life whose embrace matches Jesus' own.

With him we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not let them be afraid.

Amen.

Abide in my love

HOLY WEEK MONDAY MORNING

Opening sentence

As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you;
abide in my love.

Call to praise

Your love, O God, is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
*So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Glory ...

Psalm 71.1-15

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
*In your justice rescue me, free me;
pay heed to me and save me.*

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
*Free me from the hand of the wicked,
from the grip of the unjust, of the oppressor.*

It is you, O LORD, who are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, since my youth.
*On you I have leaned from my birth;
from my mother's womb you have been my help.
My hope has always been in you.*

My fate has filled many with awe
but you are my strong refuge.
*My lips are filled with your praise,
with your glory all the day long.*
Do not reject me now that I am old;
when my strength fails do not forsake me.

*For my enemies are speaking about me;
those who watch me take counsel together.
They say that God has forsaken me,
they can seize me and no one will save me.
O God, do not stay far off;
my God, make haste to help me!*

Let them be put to shame and destroyed,
all those who seek my life.
*Let them be covered with shame and confusion,
all those who seek to harm me.*

But as for me, I will always hope
and praise you more and more.
*My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help
(though I can never tell it all).*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
Near restful waters you lead me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
*You guide me along the right path;
you are true to your name. Amen.*

Song

In the rifted Rock I'm resting (H526)
By gracious powers (H552)
How firm a foundation (H567)
Nada te turbe (H562)

Call to discipleship

Walk while you have the light,
so that the darkness may not overtake you.
*Believe in the light,
so that you may become children of light.*

John 12.20-36

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment 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 forever. 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."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Isaiah 49.1-6

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Unless a grain of wheat (SS56)
I want to walk as a child of the light (SJ95)
Christ is the world's true light (H334, vv. 1,3)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Anything you ask in my name,
the Father will give to you.
*Ask and you will receive,
so that your joy may be complete.*

God of love, we stretch out our hands to you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You are a rock where we can take refuge. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You loosen our bonds. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You are our hope. We pray for the church in all places, that we may know the freedom of life in the Spirit.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You want your salvation to reach the ends of the earth. We pray for the world and for all who care for creation.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Passionate and compassionate God,

you don't hide from us the truth

that dying comes before resurrection.

Hold us close

so we dare to risk releasing our grip on self-preservation.

With the one who lived and died open and undefended,

we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.
Amen.

Keep my commandments

HOLY WEEK MONDAY EVENING

Opening sentence

If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love,
*just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in his love.*

Call to praise

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
*My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

Glory ...

Psalm 116.10-19

I trusted, even when I said:
"I am sorely afflicted,"
*and when I said in my alarm:
"There is no one I can trust."*

How can I repay the LORD
for his goodness to me?
*The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the LORD's name.*

My vows to the LORD I will fulfill
before all the people.
*O precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of the faithful.*

Your servant, LORD, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
*A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the LORD's name.*

My vows to the LORD I will fulfill
before all the people,
*In the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
*You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give comfort. Amen.*

Song

Who is so great a God (H62)
Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing (H110)
All glory be to God on high (H122)

Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
(silence)
See if there is any hurtful way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

Call to discipleship

Jesus said, I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in the darkness.
I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 13.1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands,

and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

Exodus 12.1-5, 11-14 (1-14)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. . . . This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will

execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Jesus took a towel (H449, verses in accompaniment book)

Lord Jesus, as the shadows long (SS78)

Christ, who is in the form of God (H333)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me.

Trustworthy God, our hope is in you. In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You are a rock where we can take refuge. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You loosen our bonds. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You are our hope. We pray for the church in all places, that we may know the freedom of life in the Spirit.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You want your salvation to reach the ends of the earth. We pray
for the world and for all who care for creation.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of hope,

you promise that death does not have the last word.

Stay with us in our fear and sorrow,

letting your patient ferment do its work in us,

raising us to a life whose embrace matches Jesus' own.

With him we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not let them be afraid.

Amen.

You will abide in my love

HOLY WEEK TUESDAY MORNING

Opening sentence

If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love,
*just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in his love.*

Call to praise

Your love, O God, is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
*So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Glory ...

Psalm 70

O God, make haste to my rescue,
LORD, come to my aid!
*Let there be shame and confusion
on those who seek my life.*

O let them turn back in confusion,
who delight in my harm;
*Let them retreat, covered with shame,
who jeer at my lot.*

Let there be rejoicing and gladness
for all who seek you.
*Let them say for ever: "God is great,"
who love your saving help.*

As for me, wretched and poor,
come to me, O God.
*You are my rescuer, my help,
O LORD, do not delay.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
Near restful waters you lead me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
You guide me along the right path;
you are true to your name. Amen.

Song

Be still (SJ75)
I am weak and I need thy strength (H553)
My life flows on (H580, vv. 1–3)

Call to discipleship

Walk while you have the light,
so that the darkness may not overtake you.
Believe in the light,
so that you may become children of light.

John 13.18-30

[Jesus said to his disciples,] “I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, ‘The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of

bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

Isaiah 50.4-9

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Ah, holy Jesus (H254)
Who now would follow Christ (H535)
When we are tempted (SS81)
Holy Spirit, come to us (SS79)
Lay down your head (SS85)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Anything you ask in my name,
the Father will give to you.

*Ask and you will receive,
so that your joy may be complete.*

God of love, we stretch out our hands to you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You turn your ear to our appeals. We pray for ourselves and
those dear to us.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You are faithful; you are just. We pray for our community and
for our neighbors.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You are our rescuer, our help. We pray for the church in all
places, that we may reflect your faithful love.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You turn back in confusion those who do harm. We pray for the
world, for those who are in need.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.
(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

Passionate and compassionate God,
you don't hide from us the truth
that dying comes before resurrection.
Hold us close
so we dare to risk releasing our grip on self-preservation.
With the one who lived and died open and undefended,
we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.
Amen.

I have kept my Father's commandments

HOLY WEEK TUESDAY EVENING

Opening sentence

If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love,
*just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in his love.*

Call to praise

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
*My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

Glory ...

Psalm 143.1-4

LORD, listen to my prayer,
turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.
Do not call your servant to judgment
for no one is just in your sight.

*The enemy pursues my soul;
has crushed my life to the ground;
has made me dwell in darkness
like the dead, long forgotten.
Therefore my spirit fails;
my heart is numb within me.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

*You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give comfort. Amen.*

Song

O thou, in whose presence (H559)
My Shepherd will supply my need (H589)
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (H582)
Take thou my hand, O Father (H581)

Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
(silence)
See if there is any hurtful way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

Call to discipleship

Jesus said, I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in the darkness.
I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 13.31-38

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I

tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.”

1 John 5.1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Ah, holy Jesus (H254)

Who now would follow Christ (H535)

When we are tempted (SS81)

Holy Spirit, come to us (SS79)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me.

Trustworthy God, our hope is in you. In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You turn your ear to our appeals. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You are faithful; you are just. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You are our rescuer, our help. We pray for the church in all places, that we may reflect your faithful love.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You turn back in confusion those who do harm. We pray for the world, for those who are in need.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of hope,

you promise that death does not have the last word.

Stay with us in our fear and sorrow,

letting your patient ferment do its work in us,

raising us to a life whose embrace matches Jesus' own.

With him we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not let them be afraid.

Amen.

I abide in my Father's love

HOLY WEEK WEDNESDAY MORNING

Opening sentence

If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love,
*just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in his love.*

Call to praise

Your love, O God, is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
*So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Glory ...

Psalm 41.1-10

Happy those who consider the poor and the weak.
*The LORD will save them in the evil day,
will guard them, give them life,
make them happy in the land
and will not give them up to the will of their foes.
The LORD will give them strength in their pain,
will bring them back from sickness to health.*

As for me, I said: "LORD, have mercy on me,
heal my soul for I have sinned against you."
*My foes are speaking evil against me.
They want me to die and my name to perish.*
They come to visit me and speak empty words,
their hearts full of malice, they spread it abroad.

*My enemies whisper together against me.
They all weigh up the evil which is on me.*
They say something deadly is fixed upon me
and I will not rise from where I lie.
*Thus even my friend, in whom I trusted,
who ate my bread, has turned against me.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
Near restful waters you lead me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
You guide me along the right path;
you are true to your name. Amen.

Song

Great is thy faithfulness (H327)
O bless the Lord, my soul (H600)
Lord, thou hast searched me (H556)

Call to discipleship

Walk while you have the light,
so that the darkness may not overtake you.
Believe in the light,
so that you may become children of light.

John 18.1-12

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. 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. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." 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. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

Ephesians 6.12-18

For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Be thou my vision (H545)

Guide my feet (H545)

By gracious powers (H552)

When we are tempted (SS81)

Don't be afraid (SJ105)

My dear Redeemer and my Lord (H547)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Anything you ask in my name,
the Father will give to you.

*Ask and you will receive,
so that your joy may be complete.*

God of love, we stretch out our hands to you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You show us steadfast love. We pray for ourselves and those
dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You give strength to those who face pain. We pray for our com-
munity and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You guard the faithful. We pray for the church in all places, that
we may bear witness to your reign of justice, peace, and joy.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You show great goodness to those who trust you in the sight of
all. We pray for the world, for all who are ensnared in greed,
violence, and oppression.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Passionate and compassionate God,
you don't hide from us the truth
that dying comes before resurrection.

Hold us close

so we dare to risk releasing our grip on self-preservation.

With the one who lived and died open and undefended,
we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Amen.

I have said these things to you

HOLY WEEK WEDNESDAY EVENING

Opening sentence

I have said these things to you
so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

Call to praise

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
*My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

Glory ...

Psalm 31.17-25 [16-24]

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your love.
*Let me not be put to shame for I call you,
let the wicked be shamed!*

Let them be silenced in the grave,
let lying lips be mute,
*that speak haughtily against the just
with pride and contempt.*

How great is the goodness, LORD,
that you keep for those who fear you,
*that you show to those who trust you
in the sight of all.*

You hide them in the shelter of your presence
from human plots;
*you keep them safe within your tent
from disputing tongues.*

Blessed be the LORD who has shown me
such a steadfast love
in a fortified city.

*"I am far removed from your sight,"
I said in my alarm.*

Yet you heard the voice of my plea
when I cried for help.

*Love the LORD, all you saints.
The LORD guards the faithful
but in turn will repay to the full
those who act with pride.*

*Be strong, let your heart take courage,
all who hope in the LORD.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

(free prayers of thanksgiving)

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

*You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give comfort. Amen.*

Song

All glory be to God on high (H122)

I am weak and I need thy strength (H553)

Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

(silence)

See if there is any hurtful way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

Call to discipleship

Jesus said, I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in the darkness.

I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 18.13-27

First they took [Jesus] to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

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, 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. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." 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.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. 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. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." 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?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

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." 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?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Lamentations 1.12

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see
if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
which was brought upon me.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

O sacred Head, now wounded (H252)
Before the cock crew twice (H243)
Christ, who is in the form of God (H333)
Khudaya, rahem kar (Have mercy on us, Lord) (SS67)
When we are tempted (SS81)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.

Trustworthy God, our hope is in you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You show us steadfast love. We pray for ourselves and those
dear to us.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You give strength to those who face pain. We pray for our com-
munity and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You guard the faithful. We pray for the church in all places, that
we may bear witness to your reign of justice, peace, and joy.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You show great goodness to those who trust you in the sight of all. We pray for the world, for all who are ensnared in greed, violence, and oppression.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

God of hope,
you promise that death does not have the last word.
Stay with us in our fear and sorrow,
letting your patient ferment do its work in us,
raising us to a life whose embrace matches Jesus' own.
With him we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.
Amen.

I have said these things to you
so that my joy may be in you

HOLY WEEK THURSDAY MORNING

Opening sentence

I have said these things to you
so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

Call to praise

Your love, O God, is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
*So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Glory ...

Psalm 22.2-9 [1-8]

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
You are far from my plea and the cry of my distress.
*O my God, I call by day and you give no reply;
I call by night and I find no peace.*

Yet you, O God, are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
*In you our forebears put their trust;
they trusted and you set them free.*
When they cried to you, they escaped.
In you they trusted and never in vain.

*But I am a worm and no man,
the butt of all, laughing-stock of the people.*
All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
*"He trusted in the Lord, let him save him,
and release him if this is his friend."*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
Near restful waters you lead me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
You guide me along the right path;
you are true to your name. Amen.

Song

My God, my God, why (H248)
For God alone (SS70)
How long, O Lord (SS82)
You are all we have (SJ29)
Keep me safe, O God (SJ50, vv. 1, 4, 6, 7)
O Love of God (H326, vv. 1, 2, 4–6)

Call to discipleship

Walk while you have the light,
so that the darkness may not overtake you.
Believe in the light,
so that you may become children of light.

John 18.28-40

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. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." 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." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, 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.

Isaiah 52.13-15

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.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Give to the winds thy fears (H561)
When the storms of life are raging (H558, vv. 2, 4)
Oh, Lord have mercy (SJ47)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Anything you ask in my name,
the Father will give to you.

*Ask and you will receive,
so that your joy may be complete.*

God of love, we stretch out our hands to you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In you our forebears put their trust. We pray for ourselves and
those dear to us.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You do not leave us alone in our distress. We pray for our com-
munity and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

Your servant was despised and rejected, a man of suffering,
acquainted with infirmity. We pray for the church in all places,
that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

Those who belong to the truth listen to your voice. We pray for
the world, for those in positions of power and authority.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

Passionate and compassionate God,
you don't hide from us the truth
that dying comes before resurrection.

Hold us close
so we dare to risk releasing our grip on self-preservation.
With the one who lived and died open and undefended,
we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Amen.

I have said these things to you
so that your joy may be complete

HOLY WEEK THURSDAY EVENING

Opening sentence

I have said these things to you
so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

Call to praise

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
*My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

Glory ...

Psalm 22.10-16 [9-15]

Yes, it was you who took me from the womb,
entrusted me to my mother's breast.
*To you I was committed from birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my God.*
Do not leave me alone in my distress;
come close, there is none else to help.

*Many bulls have surrounded me,
fierce bulls of Bashan close me in.*
Against me they open wide their jaws,
like lions, rending and roaring.

*Like water I am poured out,
disjointed are all my bones.*
My heart has become like wax,
it is melted within my breast.
*Parched as burnt clay is my throat,
my tongue cleaves to my jaws.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

(free prayers of thanksgiving)

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

*You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give comfort. Amen.*

Song

My song is love unknown (H235, vv. 1-3)

While I keep silence (SS66)

Why has God forsaken me? (H246)

Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

(silence)

See if there is any hurtful way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

Call to discipleship

Jesus said, I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in the darkness.

I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 19.1-11

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."

Isaiah 53.1-3

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.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Go to dark Gethsemane (H240)
'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow (H241)
Jesus, remember me (H247)
Ah, holy Jesus (H254)
Jesus walked this lonesome valley (SS80)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.

Trustworthy God, our hope is in you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In you our forebears put their trust. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You do not leave us alone in our distress. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Your servant was despised and rejected, a man of suffering, acquainted with infirmity. We pray for the church in all places, that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Those who belong to the truth listen to your voice. We pray for the world, for those in positions of power and authority.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of hope,
you promise that death does not have the last word.
Stay with us in our fear and sorrow,
letting your patient ferment do its work in us,
raising us to a life whose embrace matches Jesus' own.
With him we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.
Amen.

This is my commandment

HOLY WEEK FRIDAY MORNING

Opening sentence

This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
*No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Call to praise

Your love, O God, is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
*So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Glory ...

Psalm 31.1-5 [2-6]

In you, O LORD, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
*In your justice, set me free,
hear me and speedily rescue me.*

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
*for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.*

Release me from the snares they have hidden
for you are my refuge, LORD.
*Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, LORD.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
Near restful waters you lead me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

*You guide me along the right path;
you are true to your name. Amen.*

Song

Kyrie (SS68)

Khudaya, rahem kar (Have mercy on us, Lord) (SS67)

Calvary (H249, vv. 1, 3, 4, 5)

Alas! and did my Savior bleed? (H253)

Sing, my tongue, the song (H256)

Call to discipleship

Walk while you have the light,
so that the darkness may not overtake you.

Believe in the light,

so that you may become children of light.

John 19.12-16a

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."

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. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" 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." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Isaiah 53.4-9

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.

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.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Go to dark Gethsemane (H240)
'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow (H241)
Jesus, remember me (H247)
Ah, holy Jesus (H254)
Jesus walked this lonesome valley (SS80)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Anything you ask in my name,
the Father will give to you.

*Ask and you will receive,
so that your joy may be complete.*

God of love, we stretch out our hands to you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In you, Lord, we take refuge. We pray for ourselves and those
dear to us.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You are a rock, a stronghold for those in need. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You release us from hidden traps. We pray for the church in all places, that we may speak boldly for Christ.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In your justice you bring freedom. We pray for the world, for all who do justice and love mercy.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

Passionate and compassionate God,
you don't hide from us the truth
that dying comes before resurrection.

Hold us close
so we dare to risk releasing our grip on self-preservation.
With the one who lived and died open and undefended,
we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Amen.

Love one another as I have loved you

HOLY WEEK FRIDAY EVENING

Opening sentence

This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
*No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Call to praise

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
*My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

Glory ...

Psalm 22.17-22 [16-21]

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
*They tear holes in my hands and my feet
and lay me in the dust of death.*

I can count every one of my bones.
These people stare at me and gloat;
*They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.*

O LORD, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!
*Rescue my soul from the sword,
my life from the grip of these dogs.
Save my life from the jaws of these lions,
my soul from the horns of these oxen.*

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

(free prayers of thanksgiving)

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

*You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give comfort. Amen.*

Song

My song is love unknown (H235)

O Lamb of God all holy (H146)

Christ, we do all adore thee (H105)

God moves in a mysterious way (SJ104, vv. 1–3, 6)

Kyrie eleison (H144)

Confession

Thus says the Lord:⁴

“What have I done to you, O my people,
and wherein have I offended you?

Answer me.

For I have raised you up

out of the prison house of sin and death,

and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged.

For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage,

and you have nailed your Savior to the cross.

O my people!”

Holy Lord God,

holy and mighty God,

holy and most merciful Redeemer;

God eternal, leave us not to bitter death.

O Lord, have mercy!

Thus says the Lord:

“What have I done to you, O my people,
and wherein have I offended you?

Answer me.

For I have conquered all your foes,

and you have given me over

and delivered me to those who persecute me.

⁴ These antiphons and responses, known as the Reproaches, are traditionally sung as part of the observance of the Passion, usually on the afternoon of Good Friday.

For I have fed you with my Word
and refreshed you with living water,
and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink.
O my people!"

*Holy Lord God,
holy and mighty God,
holy and most merciful Redeemer;
God eternal, allow us not to lose hope
in the face of death and hell.
O Lord, have mercy!*

Thus says the Lord:

"What have I done to you, O my people,
and wherein have I offended you?

Answer me.

What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?

My people, is this how you thank your God?

O my people!"

*Holy Lord God,
holy and mighty God,
holy and most merciful Redeemer;
God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith.
O Lord, have mercy!*

Call to discipleship

Jesus said, I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in the darkness.

I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 19.16b-30

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 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. 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.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." 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. 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."

And that is what the soldiers did.

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. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 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. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Isaiah 53.10-13

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.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Open are the gifts of God (H255)
Beneath the cross of Jesus (H250)
How shallow former shadows (H251)
Were you there (H257, vv. 1–4)
So much wrong (SS84)
Jesus, keep me near the cross (H617)
Take up your cross (H536)
I love thee, Lord (H605)
Alone thou goest forth (H244)
At the cross, her vigil keeping (H245)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.

Trustworthy God, our hope is in you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In you, Lord, we take refuge. We pray for ourselves and those
dear to us.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You are a rock, a stronghold for those in need. We pray for our
community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You release us from hidden traps. We pray for the church in all
places, that we may speak boldly for Christ.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

In your justice you bring freedom. We pray for the world, for all
who do justice and love mercy.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

God of hope,
you promise that death does not have the last word.
Stay with us in our fear and sorrow,
letting your patient ferment do its work in us,
raising us to a life whose embrace matches Jesus' own.
With him we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.
Amen.

No one has greater love than this

HOLY WEEK SATURDAY MORNING

Opening sentence

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Call to praise

Your love, O God, is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
*So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Glory ...

Psalm 31.10-16 [9-15]

Have mercy on me, O LORD,
for I am in distress.

*Tears have wasted my eyes,
my throat and my heart.*

For my life is spent with sorrow
and my years with sighs.
*Affliction has broken down my strength
and my bones waste away.*

In the face of all my foes
I am a reproach,
*an object of scorn to my neighbors
and of fear to my friends.*

Those who see me in the street
run far away from me.
*I am like the dead, forgotten by all,
like a thing thrown away.*

I have heard the slander of the crowd,
fear is all around me,
*as they plot together against me,
as they plan to take my life.*

But as for me, I trust in you, LORD;
I say: "You are my God.
*My life is in your hands, deliver me
from the hands of those who hate me.*"

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)
Near restful waters you lead me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
*You guide me along the right path;
you are true to your name. Amen.*

Song

Christ, we do all adore thee (H105)
Man of sorrows (H258)
O praise the gracious power (H111, vv. 1-3, 6-7)
What wondrous love is this (H530)

Call to discipleship

Walk while you have the light,
so that the darkness may not overtake you.
*Believe in the light,
so that you may become children of light.*

John 19.31-37

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. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his

bones shall be broken.” And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

Lamentations 3.1-9

I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God’s wrath;
he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
against me alone he turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away,
and broken my bones;
he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;
he has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

He has walled me about so that I cannot escape;
he has put heavy chains on me;
though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;
he has blocked my ways with hewn stones,
he has made my paths crooked.

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

Open are the gifts of God (H255)
Beneath the cross of Jesus (H250)
Were you there (H257, vv. 1–4)
So much wrong (SS84)
Jesus, keep me near the cross (H617)
This is a story full of love (H315)
Take up your cross (H536)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Anything you ask in my name,
the Father will give to you.

*Ask and you will receive,
so that your joy may be complete.*

God of love, we stretch out our hands to you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You hold our lives in your hands. We pray for ourselves and
those dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You have mercy on those who are in distress. We pray for our
community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You turn your ear to those who cry out to you. We pray for the
church in all places, that we may be faithful in solidarity across
generations and geography.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You deliver us from the hands of those who hate us. We pray
for the world, for our enemies and for those who are in conflict.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Passionate and compassionate God,
you don't hide from us the truth
that dying comes before resurrection.

Hold us close

so we dare to risk releasing our grip on self-preservation.

With the one who lived and died open and undefended,
we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.
Amen.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends

HOLY WEEK SATURDAY EVENING

Opening sentence

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Call to praise

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
*My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

Glory ...

Psalm 88.2-8 [3-7]

LORD my God, I call for help by day;
I cry at night before you.
*Let my prayer come into your presence.
O turn your ear to my cry.*

For my soul is filled with evils;
my life is on the brink of the grave.
*I am reckoned as one in the tomb;
I have reached the end of my strength,*

Like one alone among the dead,
like the slain lying in their graves,
*Like those you remember no more,
cut off, as they are, from your hand.*

You have laid me in the depths of the tomb,
in places that are dark, in the depths.

Thanksgiving

Lord, you are my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
(free prayers of thanksgiving)

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

*You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give comfort. Amen.*

Song

My song is love unknown (H235, vv. 1, 3–5)

When I survey the wondrous cross (H260)

O Lord, hear my prayer (H348)

Remember me (SS83)

Holy, holy, holy (H120, vv. 1, 3)

Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

(silence)

See if there is any hurtful way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

Call to discipleship

Jesus said, I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in the darkness.

I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 19.38-42

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.

Lamentations 3.19-24

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

Silent or spoken reflection on the readings

Song

My Jesus, I love thee (H522, vv. 1, 2)
Rejoice, the Lord is king! (H288, vv. 1-3)
What wondrous love is this (H530)
Living and dying with Jesus (H550)
Man of sorrows (H258)
My song is love unknown (H235)

John 15.9-17

Call to intercession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.

Trustworthy God, our hope is in you. In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You hold our lives in your hands. We pray for ourselves and
those dear to us.

(open prayers)
In your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

You have mercy on those who are in distress. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You turn your ear to those who cry out to you. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be faithful in solidarity across generations and geography.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You deliver us from the hands of those who hate us. We pray for the world, for our enemies and for those who are in conflict.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of hope,
you promise that death does not have the last word.
Stay with us in our fear and sorrow,
letting your patient ferment do its work in us,
raising us to a life whose embrace matches Jesus' own.
With him we pray:

Our Father ...

Benediction

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not let them be afraid.

Amen.