

Opening Prayer: O Lord God, our Father in heaven, on this solemn day of remembrance we have come into Your presence for worship. We recognize our many sins and understand that they are the reason Your Son, Jesus Christ, had to die. We thank You, Jesus, for assuming our guilt and bearing our shame upon the cross. We rejoice, dear Father, that You have forgiven us our sins, as we are led by the Holy Spirit to confess those sins and place our faith in Jesus as our Savior. Instruct us this day and instill within our hearts a singular devotion to Your kingdom and Your saving name. Amen.

CHOIR: (*Red Hymnal 140 v. 1*)

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

FIRST LESSON

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out to the Mount of Olives as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

But Peter answered and said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away."

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

But Peter spoke more vehemently: "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." And so said all the disciples.

They went over the brook Kidron, and they came to a garden named Gethsemane. When He came to the place, Jesus said to His disciples: "Sit here while I go and pray over there. Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and He was withdrawn from the others about a stone's throw. And He began to be sorrowful, troubled, and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

And He went a little farther, and He knelt down. He fell to the ground on His face and prayed, that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will. Not My will, but Yours, be done."

Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony He prayed more fervently; and His sweat became like great drops of blood, falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, He came to His disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? What, could you not watch with Me one hour?" He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise, watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing and ready, but the flesh is weak."

He went away again a second time and prayed, saying the same words, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. So He left them and went away again and prayed the third time, saying the same words once more. Then He came to His disciples the third time, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough. Behold, the hour

has come; it is at hand. Behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise up, let us be going. Behold, he who betrays Me is at hand."

Now Judas, one of the twelve, who betrayed Jesus, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops and officers from the chief priests and the scribes and the Pharisees and elders of the people, came there with lanterns and torches, and weapons: swords and clubs. And immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, a great multitude came, and the one called Judas went before them. Now he who betrayed Jesus had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; take Him, and lead Him away safely."

Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"

They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Then, when He said to them, "I am He," they went backward and fell to the ground.

Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; therefore if you seek Me, let these go their way," that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

Judas drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. He went up to Him, and said to Him, "Hail, Master!" and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come? Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When those who were around Jesus saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And suddenly Simon Peter, one of those who stood by with Jesus, stretched out his hand and drew out his sword, and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

The servant's name was Malchus.

But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this!" And He touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath; for all who take the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? But how then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus? Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given me?"

In that hour Jesus said to the chief priests and captains of the temple and elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you in the temple, teaching, and you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness. All this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. The Scriptures must be fulfilled.

Then all the disciples 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.

Hymn: 760: 1,4 (*Worship Supplement*)

Oh, Love, How Deep

SECOND LESSON

Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away and brought Him into the high priest's house. They led Him to Annas first; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who gave counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

And Simon Peter followed Jesus at a distance, and so did the other disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door and brought Peter in, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And the servants and officers, who had made a fire of coals in the midst of the courtyard, stood there; for it was cold. And they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself at the fire. And after they had sat down together, Peter sat down with the servants to see the end.

The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; indeed they know what I said."

And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?"

Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"

Then Annas sent Jesus bound to Caiaphas the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. And the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death; and found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.

But at last two false witnesses came forward and bore false witness against Him, saying, "This Fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" But not even then did their testimony agree.

And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What is it that these men testify against You?"

But Jesus kept silent and answered nothing.

And the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "I adjure You by the living God that You tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God, the Son of the Blessed?"

And Jesus said, "I am. It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, now you have heard His blasphemy. What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be worthy of death. They answered and said, "He is deserving of death!"

Then some began to spit in His face. And the men who held Jesus mocked Him. They blindfolded Him and struck Him in the face and asked Him, "Prophecy to us, Christ; who is the one that struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him. And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

Now Peter was sitting outside, below in the courtyard. And a certain servant-girl, one of the servant-girls of the high priest, the one who kept the door, saw Peter warming himself as he sat by the fire. She came to him and said, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?"

He said, "I am not."

She said, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." She looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

But Peter denied it before them all, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him; I neither know nor understand what you are saying."

And he went out on the porch. And a cock crowed.

And after a little while, when he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and began to say to those who stood by, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth. This is one of them."

Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" One saw him and said, "You also are of them."

And again he denied it with an oath. He said, "Man, I am not. I do not know the Man."

Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him; for he is a Galilean." Those who stood by said to Peter: "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

Peter therefore denied it again. He said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying." He began to curse and swear, "I do not know the Man. I do not know this Man of whom you speak."

And immediately, while he was still speaking, a cock crowed a second time. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter called to mind the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

And when Peter thought about it, he went out and wept bitterly.

CHOIR: (*Red Hymnal 140 v. 4*)

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

THIRD LESSON

Immediately in the morning, as soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together. They took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. They held a consultation with the elders and the scribes and the whole council.

They led Jesus into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us."

But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe; and if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?"

And He said to them, "You rightly say that I am."

And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Then the whole multitude of them arose, bound Jesus, and led Him away from Caiaphas to the Praetorium and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate, the governor; and it was early morning.

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself. And falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they took counsel and bought with them the Potter's Field to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom

they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

And the Jews themselves did not enter into the Praetorium lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him, and judge Him according to your law."

Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this Fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, and called Jesus. Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself on this, or did others tell you this about me?"

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me; what have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "It is as you say. You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man. I find no fault in Him at all."

And the chief priests accused Him of many things. And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? Do You not hear how many things they testify against You? See how many things they testify against You!" But Jesus still answered nothing. He answered him not one word, so that Pilate, the governor, marveled greatly.

Hymn: 143: 1-3 (*Red Hymnal*) *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*

FOURTH LESSON

But the Jews were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and the scribes stood there and vehemently accused Him.

Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for before that they had been at enmity with each other.

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me as one who misleads the people; and, indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him. No, neither did Herod; for I sent you back to him, and, indeed, nothing worthy of death has been done by Him. I will, therefore, chastise Him and release Him.

Now at the feast, the governor was accustomed to release to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished, whomever they requested. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow-insurrectionists. He had been thrown into prison for a certain insurrection made in the city, and for murder. And the multitude cried aloud and began to ask Pilate to do just as he had always done for them. For it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast. Therefore, when they had gathered together, the governor, Pilate, answered them, saying, "You have a custom, that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Whom do you want me to release to You? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ? Do you, therefore, 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.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man; for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

But the chief priests and elders stirred up the crowd and persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

Then they all cried out at once, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas. Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a robber.

Pilate therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. He said to them, "What, then, do you want me to do with Jesus, who is called Christ, Him whom you call the King of the Jews?" And they all shouted, "Let Him be crucified!" They cried out again, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Then the governor said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go."

But they were insistent. They cried out more exceedingly, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. "Let Him be crucified! Crucify Him!" And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

And wanting to gratify the crowd, Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. And he released Barabbas to them, the one they requested, who for insurrection and murder had been thrown into prison.

Hymn: 723:1,2 (*Worship Supplement*)

What Wondrous Love is This

FIFTH LESSON

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. The soldiers of the governor led Jesus away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together and gathered around Him the whole garrison. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, clothing Him in

purple. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and worshipped Him, mocking Him. They saluted Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head with it. And they struck Him with their hands.

And when they had mocked Him, Pilate went out again and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold, the Man!"

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid; and sent again into the Praetorium and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You and power to release You?"

Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me, unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the preparation day of the Passover and about the sixth hour [probably 6:00 a.m., according to Roman time].

And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!"

But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

And so Pilate delivered Jesus to their will. He delivered Him to them to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus' purple robe off Him and put His own clothes on Him. They took Jesus and led Him out to crucify Him; and He, bearing His cross, went out. Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming from the country. They compelled him to bear Jesus' cross. On him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.

And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts which never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"

There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And they brought Him to the place called in Hebrew, Golgotha, which is translated Calvary, the Place of a Skull. And when they had come there, they gave Him sour wine mingled with myrrh and gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink; He did not take it.

Hymn: 153: 1,3 (*Red Hymnal*)

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

SIXTH LESSON

Then they crucified Him there, and two others with Him, robbers and criminals, one on the right hand, and the other on the left, and Jesus in the center. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors." Now it was the third hour [9:00 a.m., according to Jewish time] when they crucified Him.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do." Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and divided them up among themselves into four parts, to each soldier a part, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore, among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be;" that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldier did these things; and, sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

Now Pilate wrote a title or inscription of His accusation over Him. And the soldiers put it above His head on the cross. And it was written: "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in letters of Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

And the people stood, looking on. And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

Likewise even the rulers, the chief priests, together with the scribes, the Pharisees, and the elders, sneered at Him and mocked Him among themselves and said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. Let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the Chosen of God. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, that we may see and believe in Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"

Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. One of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If you are the Christ, save Yourself and us!"

But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!"

And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved, standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

And it was about the sixth hour [12:00 noon]. Then the sun was darkened. From this hour darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour [3:00 p.m.].

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" Which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You [hast Thou] forsaken Me?"

And when some of those who stood by heard that, they said, "Look! This Man is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst."

Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there. Then immediately someone ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, on hyssop, and put it to His mouth and offered it to Him to drink. He and the others said, "Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him and take Him down."

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"

And when Jesus had cried out again with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your [Thy] hands I commend My spirit." And having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit, and breathed His last.

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked; and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and, coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Jesus, saw what had happened and that He cried out like this, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man." When the centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this Man was the Son of God."

Hymn: 724 (*Worship Supplement*)

Jesus Remember Me

SEVENTH LESSON

And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances and many women also were there, standing at a distance, looking on from afar, watching these things. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. When Jesus was in Galilee, they followed Him and ministered to Him, and they had followed Him from Galilee, ministering to Him. And there were many other women who had accompanied Him from Galilee and came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Jesus; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

And after these things, when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, behold, there came a rich man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews. He was a good and just man, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a prominent council member, but he had not consented to their counsel and deed.

This man took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, that he might take it away. And Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and, summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, Pilate gave him permission and commanded the body to be given to Joseph. Then Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus down. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden, Joseph's own new tomb, that was hewn out of the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore, because of the Jews' Preparation Day — that day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near — because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, the mother of Joses, sitting opposite the grave. They observed the tomb, and where and how His body was laid. And Joseph rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. And the women returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

CHOIR: (*Red Hymnal 140 v. 5*)

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Good Friday message — “WE WILL LOOK ON HIM WHO WE PIERCED.”

The Benediction Blessing

Closing Hymn: 179 (*Red Hymnal*)

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

10

10

FROM GETHSEMANE TO GOLGETHA THE PASSION OF OUR LORD...

JESUS CHRIST

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
320 Moorpark Way
Mountain View, CA 94041
650-964-5915
www.sslcwest.org

(Based on the words of the New King James Version; compiled by David Lau.)

Pre-service: "It is Finished"

Let's take a walk back to Calvary
We find our Savior being nailed to a tree
Thorns and nails driven through His flesh
Innocence condemned to death

One to His left and one to His right
The shroud of death slowly clouds His sight
The world casts their insults at His grace
Blood shed for all the human race

"It is Finished." Jesus cried
As He hung there as He died
All our sins are washed away
Remember me Lord cause You are the Way

A nearby soldier pierced His side
Flowing blood and water does not lie
His followers took Him off to the grave
Echoes heard He Himself could not save

Christ entombed as we may be someday
But to our joy the stone was rolled away
Don't doubt believe bless the eyes unseen
Resurrection to all is what this means

"Preach the Gospel." Jesus cried
Before ascending in the sky
"The harvest is great" He says can't you see?
Yes Lord here I am. Send me! Send me! Send me!

It is finished here me cry
Jesus my Savior, Lord, Friend, and my God
He lifts me up on Eagle's wings
And this is why my voice is singing...
Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Amen. Amen.

Words and music by Neal Radichel