

# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**GOOD FRIDAY**

**April 3, 2026 7pm**

**The Passion according to John  
&  
Veneration of the Cross**

Since God is bigger than any one of us and all of us together, please take a stone from the basket that is in the center of the aisle. Let it symbolize your burdens, sins, concerns, disappointments, anger, and sorrow. Lay your burdens at the cross believing that Jesus is with you in your sorrows to love and comfort you, and that God is big enough to take away your burdens and give you peace.

*The worship will begin in silence. After the bell tolls, please kneel in body or spirit.*

*Leader* Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals—  
so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

#### **PSALM 22: 1-11**

*Leader* Together, let us pray the psalm.

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? \***  
**and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?**
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; \***  
**by night as well, but I find no rest.**
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, \***  
**enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; \***  
**they trusted, and you delivered them.**
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; \***  
**they trusted in you and were not put to shame.**
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, \***  
**scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; \***  
**they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,**
- 8 "He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; \***  
**let him rescue him, if he delights in him."**
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, \***  
**and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.**
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; \***  
**you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, \***  
**and there is none to help.**

#### **SECOND READING A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

**THE PASSION READING** *Please be seated*

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John, will be read at this time. Please stand in body or spirit when indicated by the reader.*

**MEDITATION** The Rev. Katie Holeman

**RESPONSE** The 1982 Hymnal #171 Go to dark Gethsemane (*Please join us*)

1 Go to dark Geth - se - ma - ne, ye that feel the tempt-er's power;  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of life ar - raigned;  
 3 Cal-vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
 your Re-deem - er's con - flict see, watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sus - tained!  
 mark the mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete;  
 turn not from his griefs a - way, learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 Shun not suf - fering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.  
 "It is fi - nished!" hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854). Music: *Petra*, Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

**THE SOLEMN COLLECTS**

*Please stand as in body or spirit.*

Dear People of God: Our Gracious Creator sent Jesus into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

*Please sit or kneel in body or spirit, as to which is best for you to enter into prayer.*

Let us pray for the holy catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service.

For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve.

For Sean, Presiding Bishop, Megan, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese.

For all Christians in this land and the Holy Land.

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

*Silence*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Donald Trump, the President of the United States.

For the Congress and the Supreme Court.

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations.

For all who serve the common good.

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

*Silence*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed.

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled.

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish.

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair.

For the sorrowful and bereaved.

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger.

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

*Silence*

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation.

For those who have lost their faith.

For those hardened by sin or indifference.

For the contemptuous and the scornful.

For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples.

For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others.

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

*Silence*

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to our God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

*Silence*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### VENERATION OF THE CROSS

*Leader* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

*People* **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader* If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

*People* **We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Please feel free to bring your stone and all that it represents and lay with it all your burdens.*

**RESPONSE** The 1982 Hymnal #172 Were you There (*Please join us*)

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final line and a 'Oh!' response. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you  
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you  
\*3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you  
4 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh!  
there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh!  
there when they pierced him in the side? Oh!  
there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh!

Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,  
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,  
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,  
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

trem-ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 trem-ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 trem-ble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 trem-ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: *Were you There*, Afro-American spiritual; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Harmonization Copyright © by The Church Pension Fund.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who are in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The service concludes with the following prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The tradition in the Episcopal Church is to give our Good Friday offerings to the Diocese of Jerusalem. All donations made to the church will be tax deductible and are very much appreciated.*

*Please leave the church at your own pace **silently.***

