

Prelude

Call To Worship by Marlene Kropf

On this day we gather to remember Jesus our Savior
who loved us and gave himself for us.
Let us draw near in full assurance of God's endless love and mercy.

**We give our thanks and praise to Jesus Christ
who carries our sorrows,
heals our wounds,
and redeems us from sin and death.**

Hymn *What Wondrous Love Is This* (Verse 1,2) UMH #292

Prayer of Confession by Lois Stansbury

Yes, dear God, it is true. We are not worthy of your love. We promise to be faithful, but we fall away; we forsake you; we flee from you; we betray you; we deny you; we watch from afar; we don't tell anyone that your reign is at hand; we are afraid. Change us, we pray. Amen.

Song *Ain't No Grave* Claude Ely

Reading 1 Mark 15:21-24

Simon carries the cross; Jesus is offered wine and myrrh; Jesus is hung on a cross. The crucifixion is described in one sentence- the extreme physical agony would have been known by all. The Gospel emphasizes the shame and suffering.

Hymn *O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done* (Verse 1,3) UMH #287

Reading 2 Mark 15:25-32

Jesus is mocked as a King by the Romans—a parody of "Hail Cesar!" Rome reserved death by crucifixion for slaves and insurrectionists.

Hymn *Were You There* (Verse 1,2) UMH #288

Reading 3 Mark 15:33-39

Jesus breathes his last; a centurion speaks. At the Gospel's climatic point, the centurion describes what the followers of Jesus cannot.

Silence

Reading 4 Mark 15: 40-41

Women attend to Jesus. The women who provided for him see both the burial and the empty tomb and serve as witnesses, though according to Josephus, first century Jewish historian, women were not allowed to serve as witnesses.

Hymn *Were You There* (Verse 4,5) UMH #288

Reading 5 Mark 15:42-47

The body of Jesus is taken to a tomb. Jewish customs of anointing for burial puts limitations on preparation of the body on the Sabbath.

Hymn *Jesus Remember Me* UMH #488

Reading "What Abides" by Jan Richardson

Music *Finlandia* Orion Marchese, classical guitar

Response Laying Down Stones at the Foot of the Cross

Song *Come As You Are* Passion/Crowder

Prayer

Song *Within Our Darkest Night* Taizé

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.

Departure in Silence

**Please join us for the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday
at 9:00 am and 10:30 am.**

*Scripture notes are adapted from **The Jewish Annotated New Testament**, Second Edition, Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, editors.

Excerpts from “Five ways to avoid Anti-Judaism this Lent” by Teresa Pirola

“As we prepare to hear the Passion of our Lord proclaimed, we are mindful that the Gospel account is not a simple history or biography of the life of Jesus. Rather, it is a text with theological intent, and arose in a first century environment that was in a state of turmoil socially, politically and religiously.

Negative references to certain Jews or Judaism should never be interpreted as a collective condemnation or denigration of the Jewish people, for this is neither the message of the Gospel nor the teaching of the Church.

Sadly, anti-Judaism and antisemitism have been given expression by Christians for many centuries. Historically, this was fueled by distorted preaching on the passion narrative, including the unjust accusation that “the Jews killed Jesus” and a lamentable ignorance about Judaism and key Jewish beliefs, or worse, deliberate misrepresentation. Correcting these aberrations, and healing the deep wounds caused by Christian antagonism toward and persecution of Jews, is an essential building block for our Christian commitments today.

We pray that, as we receive the proclamation of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, our hearts and minds will be cleansed of any lingering anti-Jewish misconceptions in our Christian culture and be receptive to the true depths of God’s all-embracing love to which the word of God testifies.”



April 7, 2023

